The labyrinth of magic

MAGI マギ シンドバッドの冒険

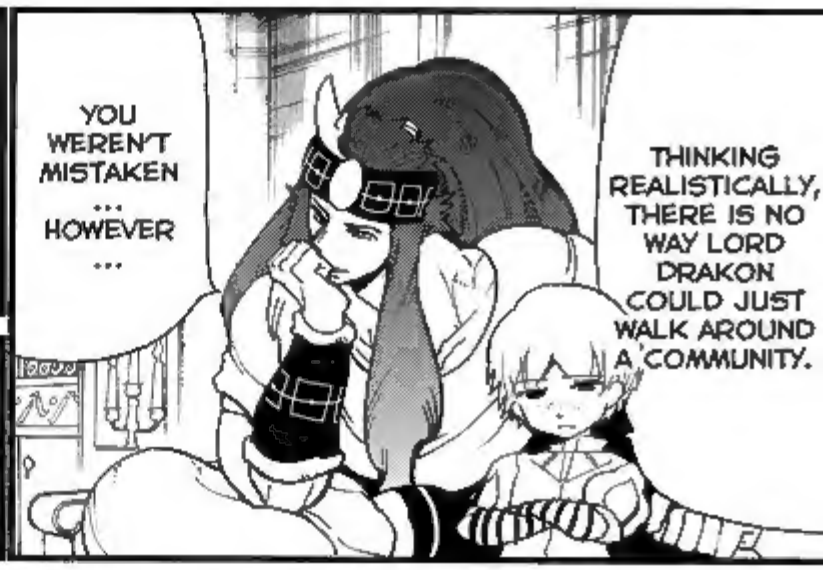
原作 大高忍 8 漫画 大寺義史

PRINCESS SERENDINE AND TWO OF US ENTERED TOWNS ALONG THE WAY TO GATHER INFORMATION, WHILE LORD DRAGUL CONCEALED HIMSELF IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF EACH TOWN.
LIKE THAT, WE ENTERED REIM AND MOVED FROM TOWN TO TOWN, HEADING FOR A PORT.
FROM THEN ON, OTHER THAN THE TIMES WE MET TO SHARE FOOD WITH LORD DRAGUL, WE RARELY SAW EACH OTHER...

I STILL DON'T KNOW... IF THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

DRAKON ...

THE REST OF THIS IS JUST SPECULATION, BUT...


YOU WEREN'T MISTAKEN ... HOWEVER ...
THINKING REALISTICALLY, THERE IS NO WAY LORD DRAKON COULD JUST WALK AROUND A COMMUNITY.

LORD DRAKON!

...LADY SAHEL, THAT'S ENOUGH.

HOWEVER, I CERTAINLY DIDN'T INTEND TO MAKE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR SAYING ALL OF THIS...

I CAN NO LONGER FEEL AT EASE AROUND SO MANY PEOPLE... I WAS UNABLE TO SLEEP...

WH... WHY ARE YOU HERE ...?!

DAY AFTER DAY... I LOOKED AT THE BRIGHT, FAR-AWAY TOWN BELOW... ALWAYS WAITING.

I'LL TELL YOU THE REST MYSELF ...DO YOU STILL WISH TO HEAR IT, SINBAD?

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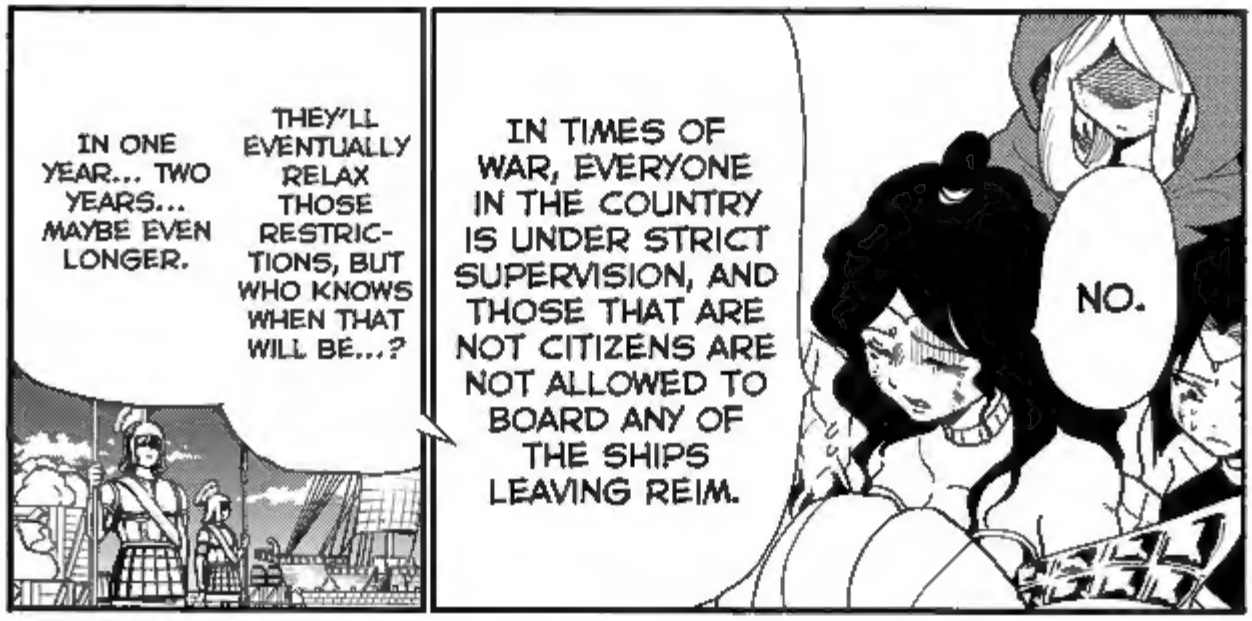
DURING THE TIMES THAT WE WERE SEPARATED, I HAD NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT...

.....

YEAH, OF COURSE.

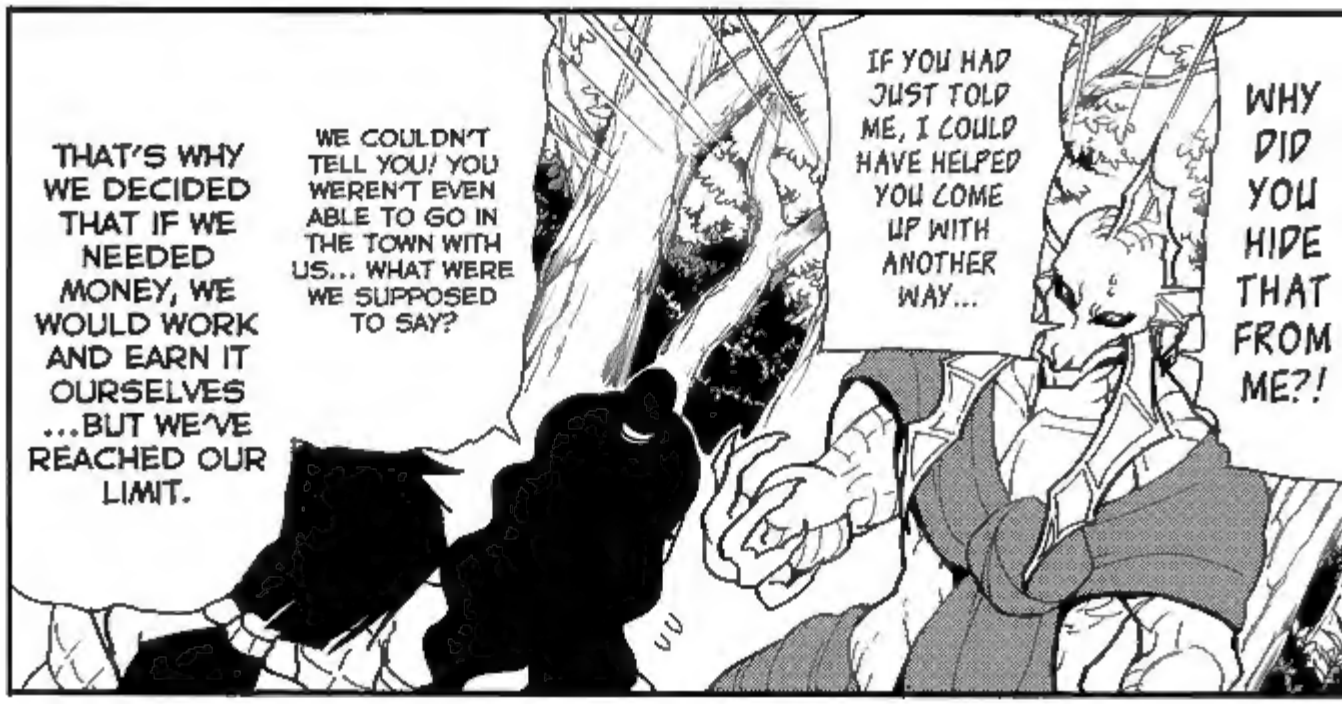
I RELIED ON THE FOOD BROUGHT TO ME BUT, AT TIMES, I ALSO ATTACKED PASSING CARAVANS.
BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE THIS, THEY ALL ASSUMED A NEW TYPE OF MONSTER HAD APPEARED AND JUST RAN AWAY.
I ALWAYS FEARED THAT RUMORS WOULD EVENTUALLY MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO TOWN. I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR THE PRINCESS AND THE OTHERS STAYING THERE...
DESPITE THAT...
I STILL FELT THAT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS BETTER THAN GOING INTO TOWN MYSELF.

WE CAN'T LEAVE REIM?!
OVER SIX MONTHS PASSED SINCE WE FLED PARTHEVIA. WE WERE COMPLETELY UNABLE TO GET OUT OF THE REIM EMPIRE... BECAUSE...


IN ONE YEAR... TWO YEARS... MAYBE EVEN LONGER.
THEY'LL EVENTUALLY RELAX THOSE RESTRICTIONS, BUT WHO KNOWS WHEN THAT WILL BE...?
IN TIMES OF WAR, EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY IS UNDER STRICT SUPERVISION, AND THOSE THAT ARE NOT CITIZENS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BOARD ANY OF THE SHIPS LEAVING REIM.
NO.

WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO PAY FOR ANY FURTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES ...
WE LEFT THE IMPERIAL PALACE WITH ONLY THE CLOTHES ON OUR BACKS. IT'S TAKEN US A LONG TIME TO GET THIS FAR... WE'VE RAISED MONEY BY SELLING ANYTHING MADE OF PRECIOUS METAL THAT WE HAD WITH US, BUT...
THEN WE'LL TAKE LAND ROUTES... IT WILL TAKE LONGER, BUT IF WE JUST GO BY CARRIAGE ...
WE WON'T.
NO... WE CAN'T.

YOU DIDN'T ...!
WE PAID FOR IT BY WORKING AS DAY LABORERS.
WE KEPT IT A SECRET, LORD DRAGUL, BUT.. IN ORDER TO PAY FOR OUR FOOD AND LODGINGS, FOR EVERYTHING WE NEEDED...


THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED THAT IF WE NEEDED MONEY, WE WOULD WORK AND EARN IT OURSELVES ...BUT WE'VE REACHED OUR LIMIT.
WE COULDN'T TELL YOU! YOU WEREN'T EVEN ABLE TO GO IN THE TOWN WITH US... WHAT WERE WE SUPPOSED TO SAY?
IF YOU HAD JUST TOLD ME, I COULD HAVE HELPED YOU COME UP WITH ANOTHER WAY...
WHY DID YOU HIDE THAT FROM ME?!

PRIN-CESS ...
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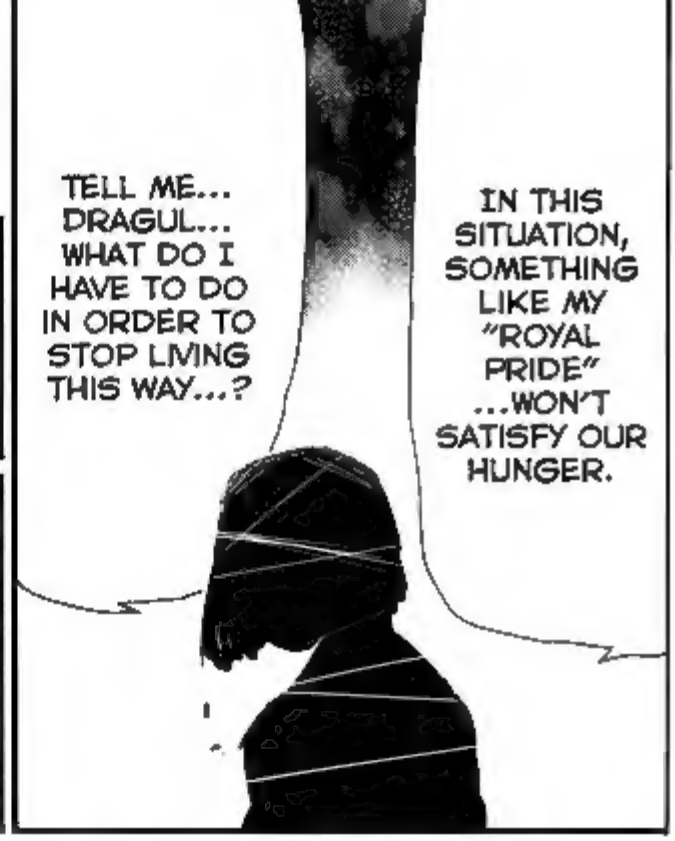
WE CAN'T GET OUT OF REIM ...WHAT WILL WE DO NOW ...?
WE HAVE NO MONEY FOR TRAVEL ...

THIS IS THE END, DRAGUL.

Y... YOUR HAIR?!
MY HANDS AND LEGS ARE COMPLETELY WORN OUT... OUR FOOD WAS ALWAYS JUST ONE THIN PIECE OF BREAD... WE STAYED IN A PLACE THAT LOOKED AS IF IT WAS MEANT FOR HORSES... DESPITE ALL THAT... I STILL THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER THAN DYING OF STARVATION.
I WASHED DISHES... PICKED UP TRASH... IF IT WOULD EARN MONEY, I WOULD DO IT...
BUT FOR AN IMPERIAL PRINCESS TO CUT HER HAIR ...!
IT'S AN UNUSUAL COLOR HERE, SO IT FETCHED A GOOD PRICE.
I SOLD IT...
WE REALLY... WE REALLY HAD NO MONEY... SO I PUT UP WITH IT.
IF I HADN'T DONE THIS, WE COULDN'T HAVE EATEN!
AN HONORABLE PERSON LIKE YOU, PRINCESS SERENDINE, SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO...

I THOUGHT THAT FOR A PRINCESS LIKE ME... THAT WOULD BE... THE ULTIMATE DISGRACE. BUT I WAS WRONG... NOW I'VE TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT MYSELF... YOU KNOW, DRAGUL...
THAT ALONE... BECOMING JUST A COMMON WHORE WAS THE ONE THING I REFUSED TO DO.
!!
...AMIDST ALL THAT, THERE WERE ALSO MEN WHO APPROACHED ME ASKING ME TO SELL MY BODY.
I'M DESPERATELY TRYING TO SURVIVE EVERY DAY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME TOMORROW... DOES THE WAY I LIVE NOW MAKE ME NO BETTER THAN A PROSTITUTE?
WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD EVER BELIEVE I'M THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF PARTHEVIA NOW?!



I DON'T MEAN BAR-BAROSSA. I'M TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE MORE FUNDAMEN-TAL...

THE DUNGEON THAT CAUSED THE DECAY OF OUR EMPIRE... AND THE MAN WHO CONQUERED IT...

SINBAD.

IF HE HAD BEEN THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO PLEDGED HIS LOYALTY TO HIS COUNTRY AND SUPPORTED THE EMPEROR...

THAT MAN CHANGED EVERY-THING!
WOULD HAVE BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL, THE EMPEROR WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MURDERED, AND WE WOULD ALL STILL BE HEADED FOR GREATNESS, WOULDN'T WE?
OUR EMPIRE
IT'S... IT'S HIS FAULT. SINBAD IS OUR COUNTRY'S BITTER ENEMY!
EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR THE WORST SINCE THAT MAN TURNED UP. OUR EMPIRE'S HISTORY... THE ROYAL FAMILY... EVERYTHING CHANGED COMPLETELY...
IT'S MY FAULT. DURING OUR TIME AS FUGITIVES, I KEPT ENCOURAGING PRINCESS SEREN-DINE TO FULFILL HER OBLIGATIONS AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, PERHAPS THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD ENDURE WAS TO DIRECT ALL HER RESENTMENT TOWARDS YOU ...
PRIN-CESS SEREN-DINE...

FOR ME, WHO HAD NO ONE LEFT TO RELY ON... IT SEEMED LIKE FATE.

IN THE CARGO OF ONE OF THE CARAVANS, I SAW THE BOOK YOU WROTE...

I DIDN'T CARE WHAT FORM IT TOOK... I ONLY HOPED FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, BUT...

HE'S MY BITTER ENEMY

I WON'T APPROVE OF HIM!

OF COURSE, IT SEEMS LIKE THE PRINCESS FIGURED IT OUT WHEN SHE SAW THE NAME "SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY".... AND SHE LOST HER COMPOSURE UPON REALIZING SHE HAD BEEN TRICKED INTO COMING HERE...

I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, HUH?

I SECRETLY CONSULTED WITH LADY SAHEL, AND SHE ENCOURAGED ME TO BRING EVERYONE HERE.

AS YOU SAW EARLIER, PRINCESS SERENDINE IS CONSUMED BY RAGE TOWARDS YOU.

BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ...
.. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE OUR TRAVELS ANY FURTHER.
I CANNOTT SAVE THE PRINCESS ALONE... BUT IT IS STILL MY WISH TO DO SO. I WANT YOU TO LET ME TAKE US TO SEE SINBAD...!

AS SOMEONE FROM THE IMPERIAL PALACE, WAS RESISTANT TO THE IDEA OF RELYING ON A PERSON WHO BETRAYED OUR EMPIRE ...
I, TOO ...
BUT ...

THIS IS ...THE TRUTH OF OUR PAST YEAR.
.....

SHE FEELS GREAT ANIMOSITY TOWARDS YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE PARTHEVIAN ROYAL FAMILY WHICH YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON...

SHE'S ONLY REPEATED WHAT IS CONVENIENT FOR HER...

AND IF I CANNOT DO SO IN THIS GROTESQUE FORM, THEN I WANT TO LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE GREATER THAN I... I WANT YOU TO PROTECT HER...

HOWEVER, I AM UNABLE TO PROTECT PRINCESS SERENDINE OR MAKE HER HAPPY.

THERE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO ASK OF YOU.

ALSO, SINBAD ...

IT'S ABOUT PRINCESS SERENDINE ...

THAT IS MY WISH.

I WANT TO ENTRUST PRINCESS SERENDINE ...TO YOU, SINBAD.

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I CAN ASK ....

!!
NO.
....I BEG YOU.

I'M SORRY FOR ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, BUT SHE'S AN IMPORTANT PERSON YOU HAVE RISKED YOUR LIFE TO PROTECT, ISN'T SHE?!

SINBAD!

YOU'RE WRONG!

BUT, THINK ABOUT WHAT WE TOLD YOU ...I'M JUST A MONSTER THAT CAN'T DO ANYTHING

YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER.

SO YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO PROTECT HER, UNTIL THE VERY END!

AREN'T YOU THE EXACT SAME DRAKON I USED TO KNOW?

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

YOU'RE MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.

YOU'RE HUMAN.

A HUMAN WHO SHEDS TEARS OUT OF WORRY, PAIN, AND LONELINESS.

IF YOU NEED STRENGTH TO KEEP GOING, I'LL LEND YOU AS MUCH AS YOU NEED! BECAUSE, AFTER ALL...

THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO GIVE UP...

... SINBAD...

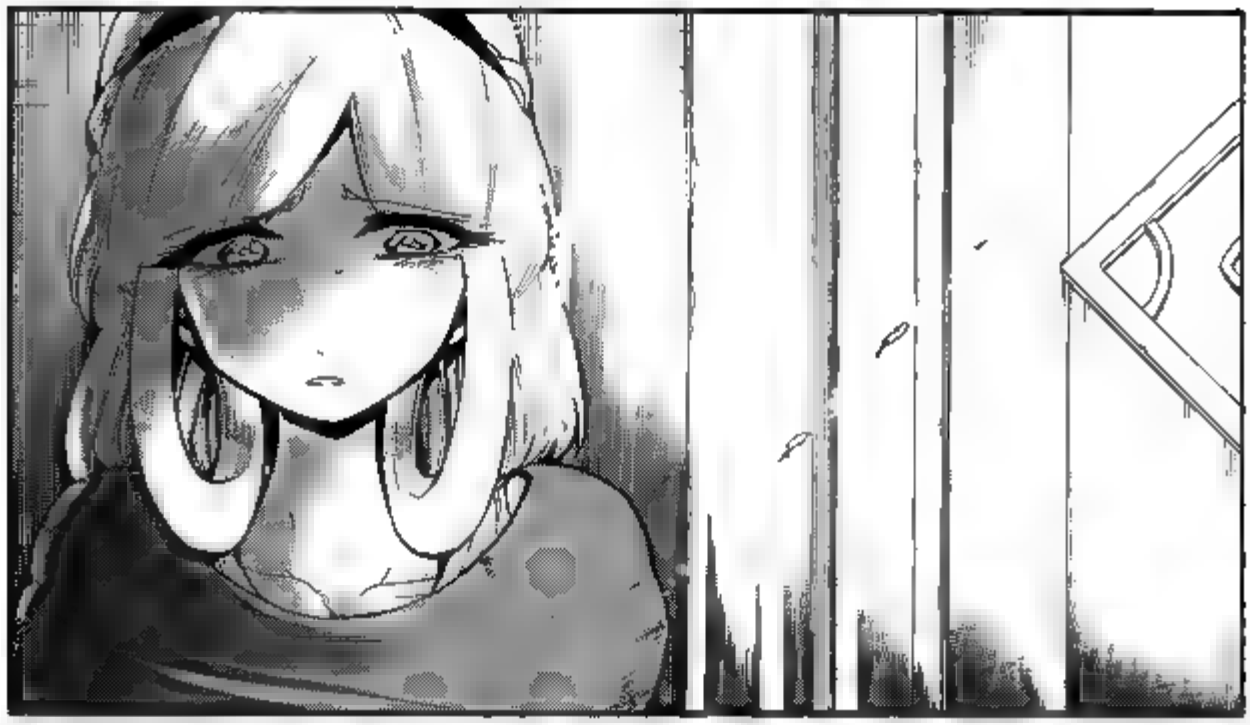
AFTER TAKING ON THIS APPEARANCE... I INTENDED TO THROW AWAY MY LIFE AS A HUMAN...

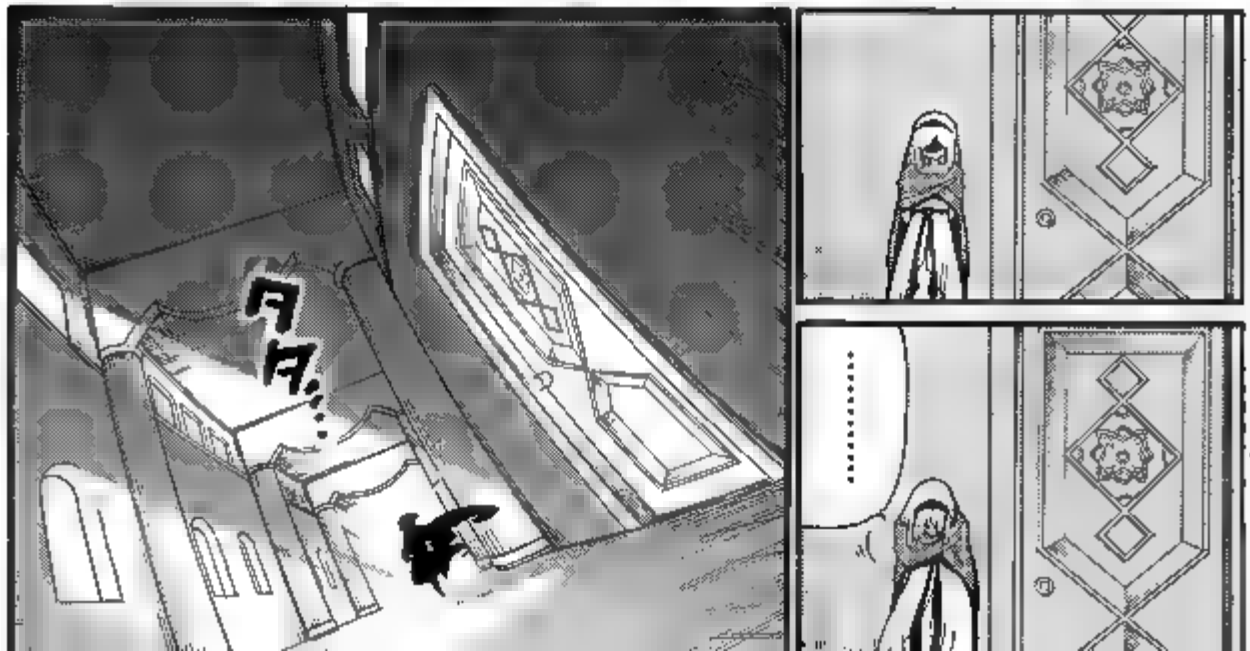
I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN... I HAD RESIGNED MYSELF TO SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE AS A MONSTER... BUT YOU...

YOU EXTENDED YOUR HAND TO ME...

THANK YOU ...

SINBAD ...
THANK YOU ....
I'M GLAD I MET YOU ...

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SINBAD ...
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
OF COURSE. YOU'RE PART OF MY COMPANY NOW.
IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO IN RETURN, PLEASE NAME IT. WE'LL LEND ALL OUR STRENGTH TO YOU.
WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT YOU LISTENED TO OUR STORY AND SHELTERED US HERE.

...!!
WHA ...?!!

ABOUT MY APPEAR-ANCE.
THERE'S ONE LAST THING... I DEBATED WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD TELL YOU, BUT IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF YOU KNOW
...SINBAD,
THIS STRANGE FORM I'VE TAKEN IS A RESULT OF THE POWER OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF YOUR DJINN, BAAL.

IN PARTHEVIA, I INVOKED THE POWER OF THAT HOUSEHOLD VESSEL. THEN, THE HOUSEHOLD AND I WERE COMBINED INTO ONE BEING.
NO, MORE ACCURATELY, I HAD A METAL VESSEL IN WHICH THE HOUSEHOLD CHOSE TO RESIDE.
I BECAME PART OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IN VALEFOR'S DUNGEON.

THIS WAS THE SOLUTION I WAS PRESENTED WITH WHILE ON THE VERGE OF DEATH. "TO SACRIFICE MY BODY" ...THAT WAS THE PLEDGE I MADE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

THE HOUSEHOLD, WHICH IS NOW A PART OF ME, EXPLAINED ALL OF THIS TO ME.

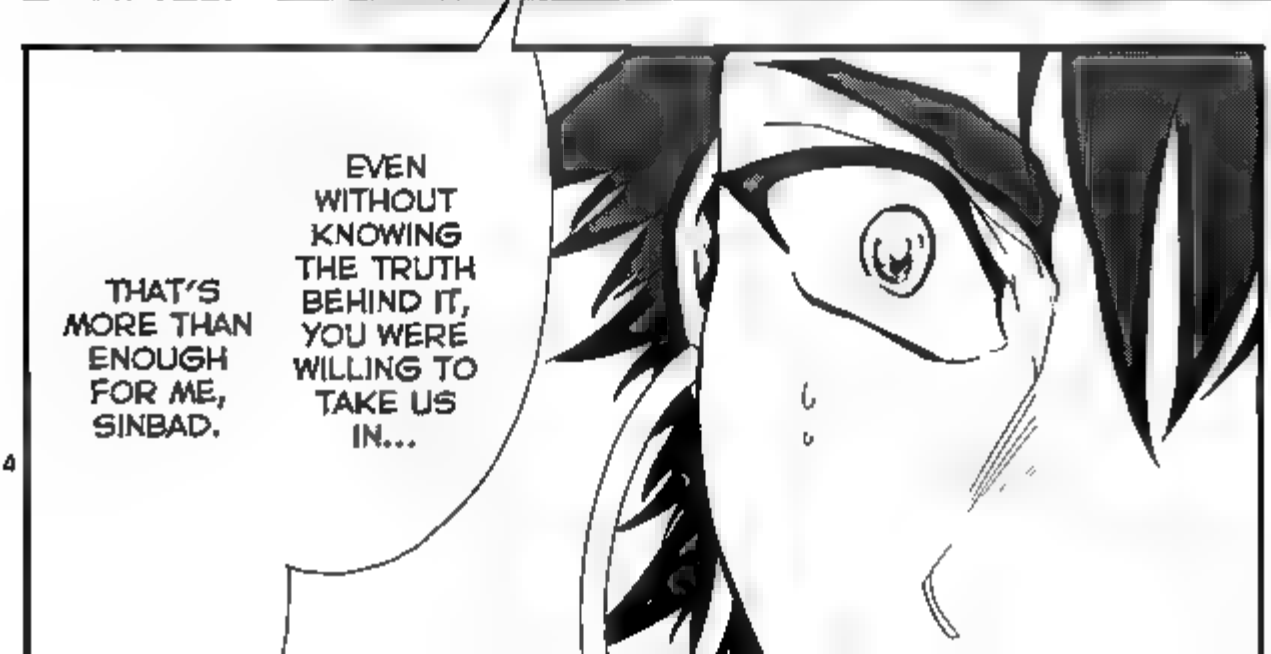
IN ORDER TO BE ASSIMILATED BY THE HOUSEHOLD, I SACRIFICED MY HUMAN BODY ...THAT'S HOW I CAME TO ASSUME MY CURRENT FORM.

THE HOUSEHOLD VESSEL USES THE EXPERIENCE AND STRENGTH OF WILL OF ITS USER AS A STARTING POINT, AND THEN ADVANCES TOWARDS ASSIMILATION WITH THE HOUSEHOLD.

.....

IF THERE ARE OTHER HOUSEHOLD VESSEL USERS BESIDES ME, BE CAREFUL.
UNLESS YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE ME...

DON'T BE CONCEITED. THIS IS SOMETHING I CHOSE. IT'S NOTHING YOU SHOULD FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR!
SO, IT'S MY FAULT YOU LOOK LIKE THAT...?
...WAIT A MINUTE, DRAKON ...


THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME, SINBAD.
EVEN WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUTH BEHIND IT, YOU WERE WILLING TO TAKE US IN...

...OKAY.

THE SAME PATH THAT YOU ARE WALKING, ALONG WITH ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU'VE SHOULDERED.
THEN, I TOO, WILL FOLLOW THE PATH I CHOSE...

LET'S LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON, DRAKON ...
.....
キィィィ!!

THAT GIRL BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU. IT'S COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED, AND I SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT IT.
SIN,
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO PUT YOUR TRUST IN DRAKON AND THAT PRINCESS?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THEIR VERY EXISTENCE WILL CAUSE A DISTURBANCE TO THOSE AROUND THEM. IF YOU INTEND TO SHELTER THEM, YOU SHOULD DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
FRANKLY... I OBJECT. SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY HAS ONLY JUST GOTTEN ON THE RIGHT TRACK. OUR WHOLE FUTURE LIES AHEAD OF US...
YEAH. I'LL HIRE THEM ALL HERE AT THE COMPANY.
FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD SEE IF WE CAN SEND THEM TO ONE OF OUR ALLIED COUNTRIES AS GUESTS...
YES, THAT'S GOOD ...
Uh huh
...HUH?!

...I BELIEVE THAT IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED UP UNTIL NOW.
JA'FAR... SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY HAS REALLY GROWN, HUH?
BUT BEYOND THAT, I CAN FEEL THIS POWER AROUND US, LIKE IT'S SOME SORT OF CURRENT...
IF EVEN ONE PERSON WAS MISSING, IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED. IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES THAT WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.
WE'VE BECOME A PROMINENT COMPANY HERE IN NAPOLIA, BUT...
YES, WELL ...
I CAN SEE IT...
BECAUSE...
THE FLOW OF ALL THE CURRENTS TURNING TOWARDS ME!
I CAN SEE ...

EVERYONE I'VE MET UP UNTIL NOW HAS BECOME AN ALLY, BUT...!
THE TEACHER WHO SHARED HIS GUIDANCE AND LOOKED AFTER ME...
OLD FRIENDS REUNITED...
THEY ALL CAME TOGETHER BECAUSE OF THE FLOW OF A SINGLE DESTINY...!
I'M BEING GUIDED BY DESTINY!

SOMEONE "SPECIAL."

I AM ...

SINBAD WAS ONLY 16 YEARS OLD AT THIS TIME.

THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN THE ARROGANCE OF YOUTH...

BY DESTINY'S UNPREDICTABLE, EVER CHANGING FLOW...

HOWEVER, BOTH SINBAD AND HIS SURROUNDINGS WOULD BE SWALLOWED

ブルブル…
THE NEXT DAY.
しゅん…
GOOD MORNING, LORD SINBAD!
I, TAMIRA, WISH TO THANK YOU FOR GRANTING US FOOD AND LODGING…!
ガバッ
DID YOU SLEEP WELL, YOUNG LADY?
Hey!
NO NEED TO SPEAK OF LAST NIGHT, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO LET YOU STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
HUH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN …?!!
JUST ASK DRAKON.
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WHAT'S GOING ON... IT SEEMS AWFULLY NOISY OUT FRONT ...
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WHY ARE THEY HERE ?!!

POLICE OFFI-CERS ...

WHY, YOU ASK? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AFTER REPEATEDLY IGNORING OUR NOTICES?!

VOLUME 5. 30TH NIGHT

WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANY OF THAT! HAHAHA!

AFTER ALL, YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO SET UP AN UNAUTHORIZED STREET STALL AND MADE MONEY TELLING STORIES.

Are the guys from Back then

WE'VE FINALLY CAUGHT YOU!

BUILDING SUCH A HUGE COMPANY... THERE HAD TO BE SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON... AND ANYWAY, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE SUSPICIOUS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

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HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!!

HUH...BUT, WHAT SORT OF NOTICE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T RECALL SEEING ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

YOU HAVE YET TO REPAY EVEN A SINGLE COIN, AND THE DEADLINE IS TODAY!

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY HAS ACCUMULATED A HUGE AMOUNT OF DEBT,

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR NOT PAYING ANYTHING DESPITE RECEIVING COUNTLESS NOTICES!

SO WE'VE COME HERE TODAY TO SEIZE YOUR COMPANY IN COMPENSATION FOR THE LOANS YOU DEFAULTED ON.

!!?

I HAVE A CONTRACT.

THAT'S RIGHT! THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF M.STAKE!

W... WAIT! I DON'T REMEMBER ANY LOANS!

IT'S TRUE.

WH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!

I'VE BEEN FOUND OUT BY SINBAD AND EVERYONE ELSE...
I'M FINISHED ...
IT'S OVER ...
AND THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE OUR SEAL.
HE... HE'S RIGHT!
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WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS...?

VITTEL, IT WAS YOU?!
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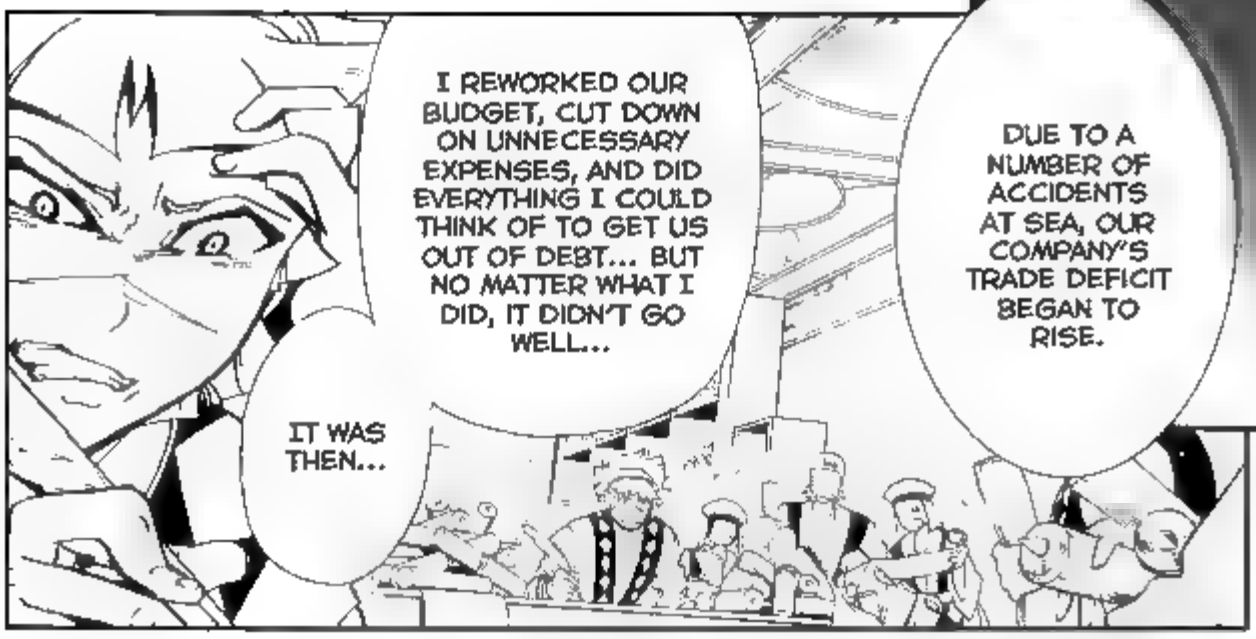
...IT CAN'T BE...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I'M SORRYYY !!!

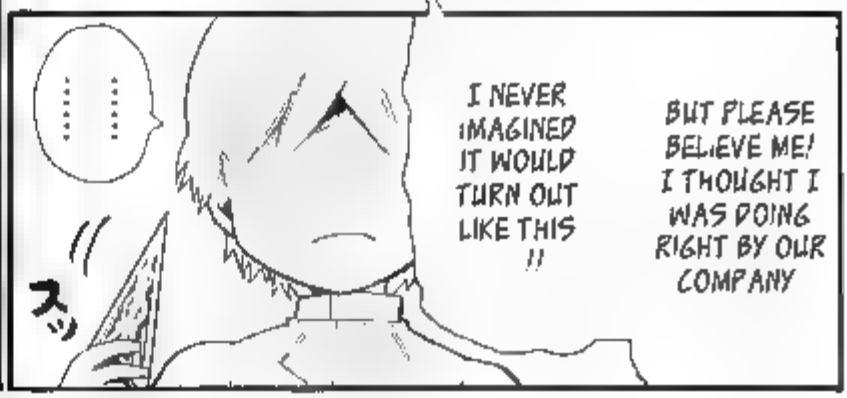
WAAAAH!! I'M SORRY!!! I'M SORRY!!!


DUE TO A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AT SEA, OUR COMPANY'S TRADE DEFICIT BEGAN TO RISE.
I REWORKED OUR BUDGET, CUT DOWN ON UNNECESSARY EXPENSES, AND DID EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF TO GET US OUT OF DEBT... BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DID, IT DIDN'T GO WELL...
IT WAS THEN...

SHE WAS THE HEAD OF A PROMINENT COMPANY, DISTINGUISHED EVEN IN THE CAPITAL OF REMANO, AND BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORTS TO RAISE MONEY, SHE CAME TO US WITH AN "INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY"
THAT WOMAN APPEARED, SAYING "IF YOU'VE LOST SOMETHING, YOU JUST NEED TO REPLACE IT."

SHE INTRODUCED US TO GOODS FROM AN EMERGING NATION... GOODS THAT WOULD BE A VALUABLE INVESTMENT... SHE SAID THEY'D DEFINITELY BE PROFITABLE!
ON TOP OF THAT, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY CASH FOR THEM, AND WERE TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF GOOD FAITH BETWEEN US ...
SO I MADE UP MY MIND AND REQUESTED GOODS WORTH MORE THAN OUR COMPANY'S ASSETS!!
I THOUGHT THAT NOTHING COULD GO WRONG, BUT ..
WHILE I LOOKED ON IN HORROR ..
Um...

THE MARKET VALUE OF THE GOODS WE INVESTED IN DROPPED ...
AND IT'S STAYED THAT WAY EVER SINCE ...
AND NOW WE'RE LEFT WITH A DEBT MORE THAN TEN TIMES WHAT THOSE GOODS ARE WORTH...


BUT PLEASE BELIEVE ME! I THOUGHT I WAS DOING RIGHT BY OUR COMPANY
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS !!
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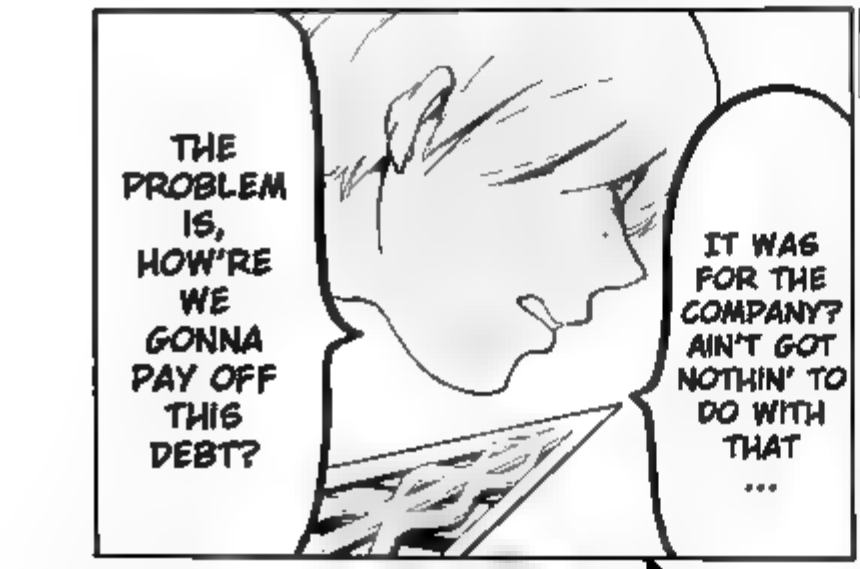
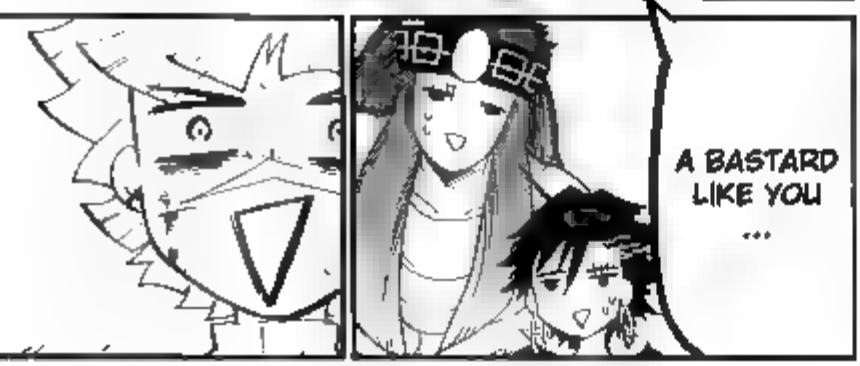
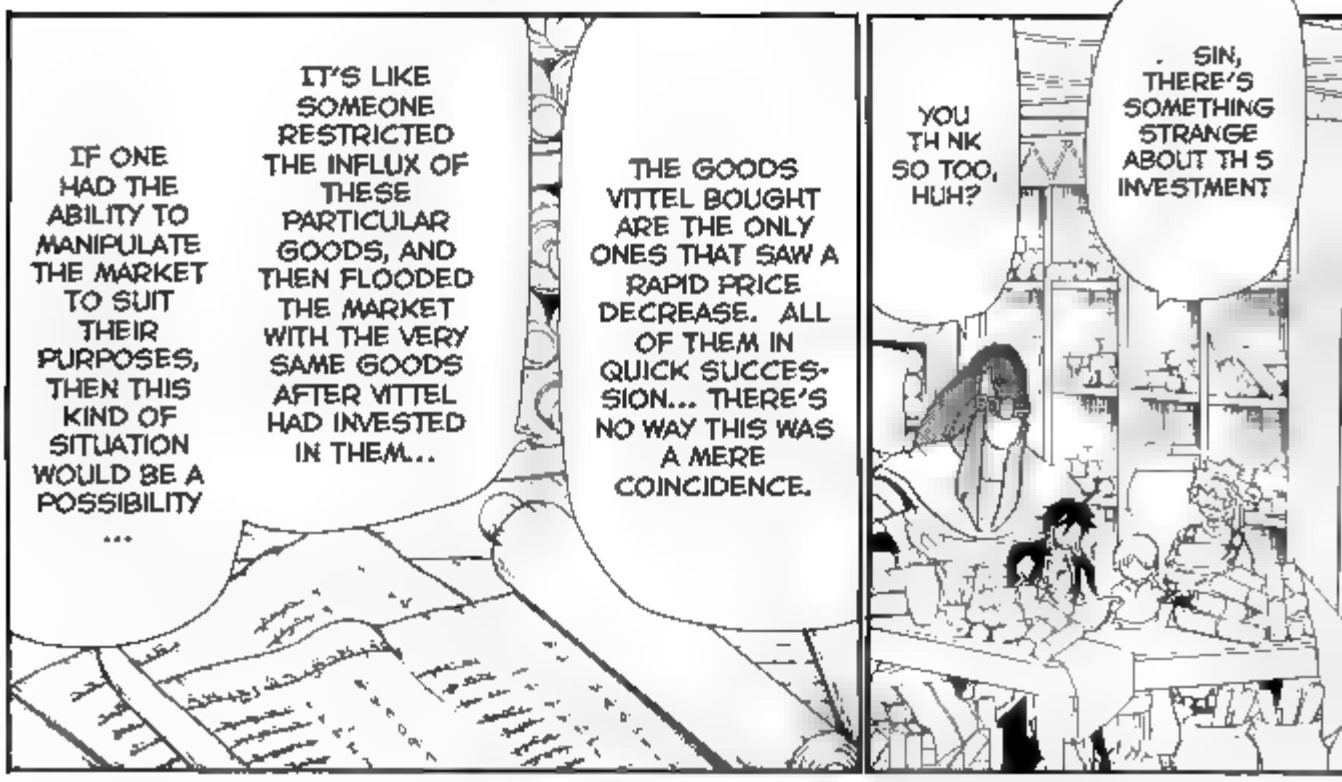

IT WAS FOR THE COMPANY? AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THAT ...
THE PROBLEM IS, HOW'RE WE GONNA PAY OFF THIS DEBT?

DEBT?
...IN-VEST-MENT?
パラ...
パラ
JUST WHAT THE HELL DID YOU GO AND DO, YA BATARD...!?


A BASTARD LIKE YOU ...

SHOULDN'T HE?!!!!
...SHOULD PAY WITH HIS LIFE,
I AIN'T ABOUT TO LET SOME SMALL FRY ORDER ME AROUND !!!
SHUT IT!!
JA'FAR! CA... CALM DOWN... YOU'VE GONE BACK TO YOUR OLD HABITS!!
GYA AAA AAA !!
I'LL KILL YOU, DAMMIT!!
ギャーワー!!

... I COULDN'T TELL YOU ...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ALL THIS SOONER? IF ONLY YOU HAD...
I SAW HOW MUCH FUN YOU WERE HAVING, AND I JUST COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
Yay!
TO OUR IDEAL FUTURE!
ARE YOU OKAY, VITTEL?
... YES ...
SINBAD ... I'M SORRY ...
ME TOO... I'M SORRY I DIDN'T NOTICE THE SITUATION YOU WERE IN...
ANYWAY, WE MUST DISCLAIM THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
SHOW ME ALL THE DOCUMENTS CONCERNING [redacted] INVESTMENT AND ALL THE GOODS YOU EXCHANGED.


IF ONE HAD THE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE THE MARKET TO SUIT THEIR PURPOSES, THEN THIS KIND OF SITUATION WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY ...
IT'S LIKE SOMEONE RESTRICTED THE INFLUX OF THESE PARTICULAR GOODS, AND THEN FLOODED THE MARKET WITH THE VERY SAME GOODS AFTER VITTEL HAD INVESTED IN THEM...
THE GOODS VITTEL BOUGHT ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT SAW A RAPID PRICE DECREASE. ALL OF THEM IN QUICK SUCCESSION... THERE'S NO WAY THIS WAS A MERE COINCIDENCE.
YOU TH NK SO TOO, HUH?
. SIN, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT TH S INVESTMENT

IF WE CAN PROVE THAT THIS INVESTMENT WAS A SCAM, THEN WE MAY BE ABLE TO HAVE OUR DEBTS WRITTEN OFF...
SIN! LET'S DISCUSS THIS WITH THE MERCHANT'S GUILD.
NO GOOD. THAT'S TOO SLOW.
HUH?
WE HAVE NO TIME... THERE-FORE!
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO PROVE? IN THE MEANTIME, EITHER THIS COMPANY WILL HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEIZED OR OUR DEBTS WILL HAVE GROWN.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS INVESTMENT WAS A TRAP SET UP IN ORDER TO SHUT US DOWN...

SIN!?
I'M GOING TO TALK TO THE OTHER PARTY DIRECTLY.
TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND HER, VITTEL!

Reim Empire,
Capital: Remano

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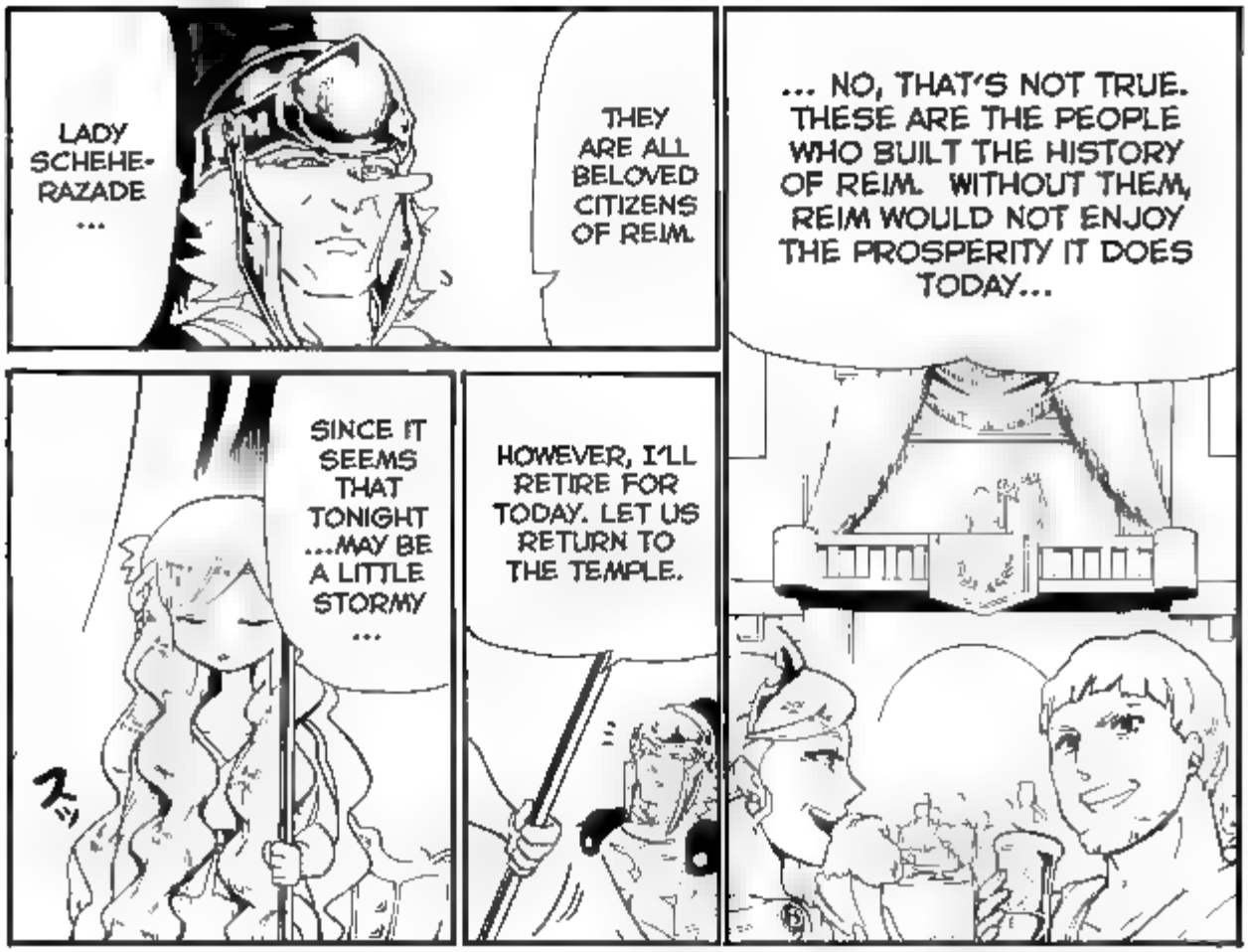
WHAT'S WRONG, HIGH PRIESTESS-? NO...

.....

LADY SCHEHERA-ZADE.
.....
NO... IT'S NOTHING, IGNATIUS.
MY APOLOGIES, LADY SCHEHE-RAZADE.
.....
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL IN THE COUNTRY, YOU MUST FIND THIS TERRIBLY UNSATISFACTORY
FOR SOMEONE OF YOUR POSITION TO COME TO A BANQUET HELD BY A MERE MERCHANT. .


LADY SCHEHE-RAZADE ...
THEY ARE ALL BELOVED CITIZENS OF REIM.
... NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THE HISTORY OF REIM. WITHOUT THEM, REIM WOULD NOT ENJOY THE PROSPERITY IT DOES TODAY...
SINCE IT SEEMS THAT TONIGHT ...MAY BE A LITTLE STORMY ...
HOWEVER, I'LL RETIRE FOR TODAY. LET US RETURN TO THE TEMPLE.

TO THAT GREAT POWER BORN... 16 YEARS AGO...
!!?
IT'S SIMILAR.
THE FLOW OF THE RUKH... YES.....
LA LADY SCHE-HERA-ZADE?!

OUR COMPANY'S LADY MAADER IS EXTREMELY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO GREET ALL OF HER GUESTS TONIGHT.

WELCOME TO THE MARIADEL COMPANY BANQUET!

CHEER ...

TO A CELEBRATION OF THE MARIADEL COMPANY AND EVERYONE HERE...

I'M HERE TO DISCUSS THE UNJUST DAMAGE CAUSED TO MY COMPANY!
I AM SINBAD, HEAD OF THE SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY OF NAPOLIA.
WH... WHAT THE?!
IS THE HEAD OF THE MARIADEL COMPANY HERE?!

PLEASE STOP.
A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER ...GUARDS! ARREST HIM!!

!!?
LADY MAADER ?!
YOU'RE SINBAD, DUNGEON CONQUEROR AND HEAD OF A DEVELOPING COMPANY...
AFTER ALL, HE IS ONE OF OUR CLIENTS.
I DON'T MIND.
WELCOME TO MY BANQUET.
MAADER UMM MARIADEL.
I'M THE HEAD OF THIS COMPANY ...

Head of Mariadel Company
Maader

WHAT A CUTE BOY ...

HE HEHE ...

SINBAD, HEAD OF THE SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY ....
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET,
MAADER.
I'M THE HEAD OF THE MARIADEL COMPANY ...

SINBAD... THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF MISUNDER-STANDING.
WHAT?!
CHEATED...? WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
QUIT MESSING AROUND! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT AFTER YOU CHEATED MY COMPANY AND FORCED US INTO BANKRUPTCY?!
WHAT BUSI-NESS DID YOU SAY BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY?

WE AS MERCHANTS MUST ADHERE TO OUR CONTRACTS ABOVE ALL ELSE.
FOR YOU AS THE HEAD OF YOUR COMPANY TO COME HERE TO DENY THAT CONTRACT AND TREAT IT AS NO MORE THAN SCRAP PAPER... I WONDER WHICH ONE OF US IS REALLY IN THE WRONG?
IT'S TRUE THAT I SUGGESTED THAT YOUR COMPANY MAKE AN INVESTMENT.
HOWEVER, THAT INVESTMENT WAS MADE THROUGH AN OFFICIAL CONTRACT WITH THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH PARTIES.

I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING WRONG.

WHERE IS YOUR PROOF THAT I HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT...?

ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE SUDDEN DECLINE OF THE MARKET VALUE? THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, DOESN'T IT?

BUT IF YOU'RE INTENTIONALLY MANIPULATING THE MARKET VALUE OF THAT INVESTMENT, ISN'T THAT FRAUD?!

TCH . THIS WOMAN ..

AS A MERCHANT, THE DETAILS OF ONE'S TRANSACTIONS ARE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED. THERE'S NO WAY I'D SHOW THEM TO MY COMPETITION!

THEN SHOW ME THE DETAILS OF ALL YOUR PAST TRANSACTIONS. THAT SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR!

whisper

whisper

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT... COULD HE BE THAT RUMORED DUNGEON CONQUEROR, SINBAD...?

DID YOU SEE? JUST NOW... THAT STRANGE LIGHTNING-LIKE POWER...

chat-ter

chat-ter

..... ACKNOW-LEDGE SOME-THING?

ARE YOU GOING TO REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ANYTH NG NO MATTER WHAT I SAY?!

JUST LOOK AROUND YOU.

THERE'S NOTHING TO AC-KNOWL-EDGE .....

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT COMPANY HERE IN THE CAPITAL. WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE SAYING? HE'S JUST A YOUNGSTER WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF BUSINESS.
SETTLE YOUR BUSINESS DISPUTES THROUGH A NEGOTIATION! ISN'T IT AWFULLY RUDE TO FORCE YOUR WAY IN AND INTERRUPT A BANQUET?
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAVING ISSUES NEGOTIATING, BUT... THEY ALREADY SIGNED A CONTRACT, DIDN'T THEY? IF THAT'S THE CASE, JUST WHAT DID LADY MAADER DO WRONG...?
WHY IS A GUY LIKE THAT HERE...?

.....
I WAS TOO CARELESS ...!!
THE ONES GATHERED HERE ARE THE OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES OF COMPANIES THROUGHOUT REMANO .
THIS ISN'T JUST AN ORDINARY BANQUET TO AMUSE THE NOBLES .!!
?!!

I'M AT AN OVERWHELMING DISADVANTAGE !!!
IN THIS SITUATION
SHE'S DONE NOTHING WRONG. ISN'T THAT MAN THE ONE BREAKING THE RULES?

IF YOU OBJECT, THEN TAKE IT TO COURT.
NO... I'M REALLY...
YOU'RE TRESPASSING AND ATTEMPTING TO EXTORT MONEY!
DON'T CAUSE ANY MORE OF A DISTURBANCE.
BUT, THIS IS A REALLY GOOD LESSON FOR THAT YOUNG MAN, ISN'T IT...?
RURAL MERCHANTS JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.
I DON'T LIKE TH S. HOW UNSIGHTLY ...
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
HOW IMPERTINENT!
NOW, NOW, EVERYONE... WAIT A MINUTE.
IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY WILL BE SEIZED. EVERYONE'S HOME OUR DREAM .. WHAT SHOULD I DO.. ?!!
THIS IS BAD... THINGS JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE...!!
ABOUT THE HARSH REALITY OF A MERCHANT'S WORLD... HAHAHA!

SO, LET'S GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO RECOVER.
CRUSHING THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH ISN'T GOOD.

CAN'T WE ALL GO EASY ON HIM FOR THIS ONE LITTLE MISTAKE?
HE'S STILL INEXPERIENCED AS A MERCHANT ...

WHY DON'T WE HAVE A CONTEST?
SINBAD

I'M START NG TO FEEL A BIT SORRY FOR HIM...
IN ONLY THE PAST YEAR HE'S GROWN ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO DO BUSINESS WITH ME.

IN A SWORD MATCH.
FIGHT MY GLADIA-TOR ...

WHEN DID I EVER ASK FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT ?!
CONTEST? ARENA? QUIT TRYING TO CHANGE THE TOPIC!

THERE HASN'T BEEN MANY PEOPLE ATTENDING THE ARENA I MANAGE, LATELY ...
!!?
IF YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE, I'M WILLING TO FORGIVE YOU FOR YOUR RUDE BEHAVIOR HERE TODAY.

OH, YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED? THEN, HOW ABOUT IF I INCLUDE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED UNTIL NOW IN OUR DEAL?

I KNEW WHEN I SAW THAT LIGHTNING EARLIER. THOSE WEAPONS ARE TOO DANGEROUS. NO GLADIATOR WOULD BE A MATCH FOR THEM...
HOWEVER, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO USE YOUR METAL VESSELS.

YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER REWARD, COULD YOU?
IN OTHER WORDS, I'LL FORGIVE ALL THE DEBT OF SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY ...
IF YOU WIN, I'LL INCLUDE THE DEBT YOUR COMPANY OWES.

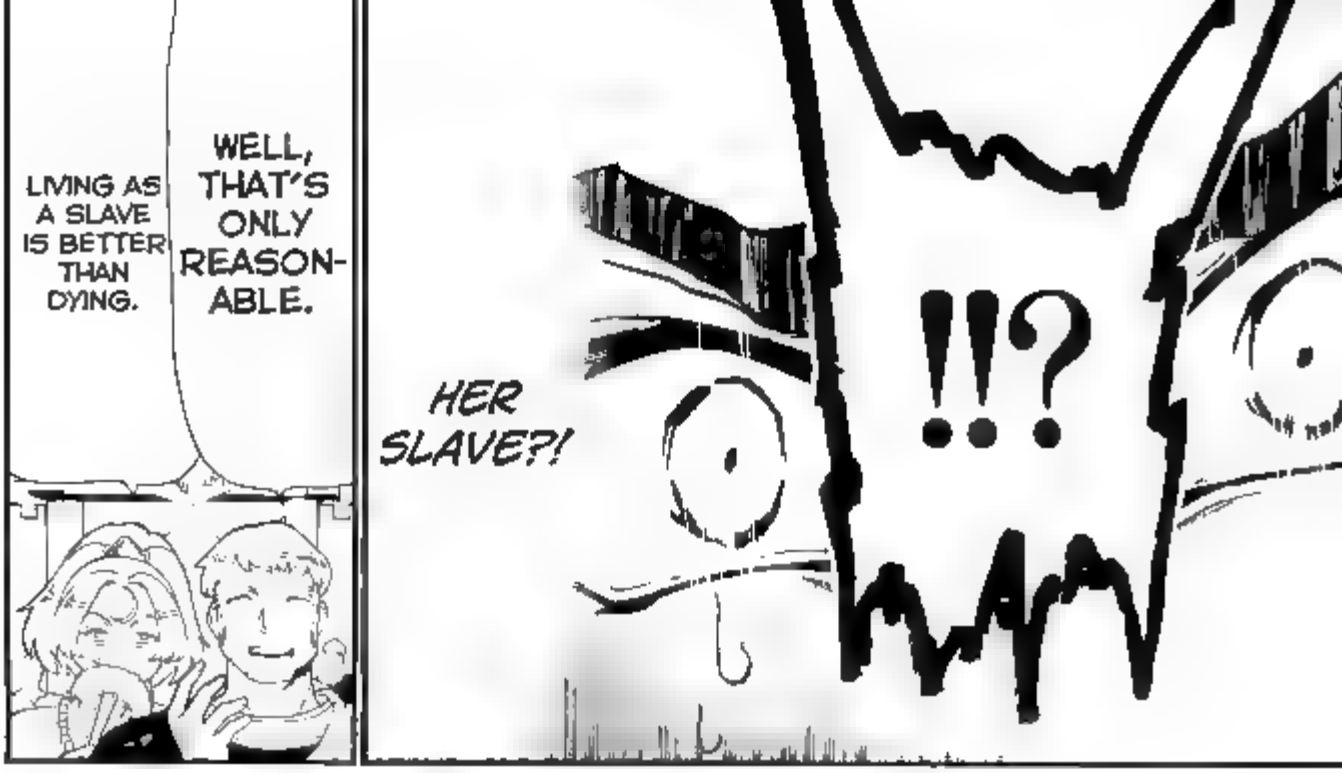
THE COMPANY'S DEBTS... WOULD BE FORGIVEN.....?? IS THIS WOMAN SERIOUS...?!
THAT'S THE ONLY RESTRICTION. ISN'T THAT A GOOD DEAL?

MY, MY. SO, IF HE WINS A SWORD MATCH, THEN ALL HIS DEBTS WILL BE FORGIVEN...
HE'S A DUNGEON CONQUEROR, ISN'T HE? HE SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF CONFIDENCE IN THOSE ARMS OF HIS.
HOW GENEROUS SHE'S BEING TO THAT RUDE BOY.
YEAH! A SWORD MATCH WOULD BE FUN!

THIS OFFER IS WAY TOO ADVANTAGEOUS FOR ME...
TO BECOME A CONQUEROR, I HAD TO CHALLENGE A DUNGEON WITH MY OWN STRENGTH. EVEN WITHOUT MY METAL VESSELS, IT'S CLEAR THAT I'M STRONGER THAN AN ORDINARY PERSON. DESPITE KNOWING THAT, MAADER IS OFFERING ME THIS CONTEST, WHICH CLEARLY SEEMS TO BE IN MY FAVOR.
THIS IS... OBVIOUSLY A-TRAP... !!
THEY'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD FIND A CONTEST WITH MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS THAN THIS.

YOU WILL BECOME MY SLAVE.

IF YOU LOSE, YOU WILL BECOME MY "PROPERTY."


LIVING AS A SLAVE IS BETTER THAN DYING.
WELL, THAT'S ONLY REASONABLE.
HER SLAVE?!
!!?

...THIS WOMAN...

SO...
...DON'T TELL ME THIS WAS HER REAL GOAL...

WILL YOU TRY?

OR WON'T YOU?

I CAN'T JUST UNCONDITIONALLY OFFER TO ABSOLVE YOUR DEBTS, NOW, CAN I? WITH A CONTEST LIKE THIS, I'M GIVING YOU, WITH ALL YOUR CONFIDENCE AND ABILITY, A FAIR CHANCE.
SINBAD, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND. I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR.
IF YOU WIN, YOU'LL GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT. THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THAT, IS THERE?

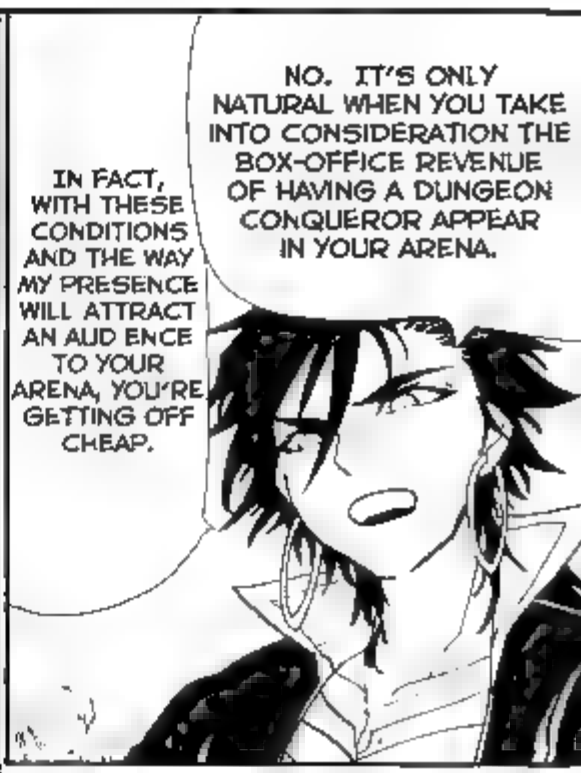
MAKE YOUR DECISION.

...IS UNACCEPTABLE.

.....SO, I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE THE CONDITIONS. THAT'S RIGHT, AT THE VERY LEAST...
THEY SHOULD BE FORGIVEN AS SOON AS I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. IN OTHER WORDS, I WANT YOU TO PAY UP NOW.
MY DEBTS SHOULDN'T BE FORGIVEN WHEN I WIN.
AND IN ONLY ONE YEAR, I MANAGED TO CREATE A COMPANY THAT CAN COMPETE WITH THE BEST IN NAPOLIA, RIGHT?
I'M A DUNGEON CONQUEROR.
I'M SAYING THAT I'M WORTH A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN MY COMPANY IS.
IF I LOSE ONE OR TWO OF MY SHOPS NOW, IT WON'T REALLY HURT ME. I'LL JUST BUILD THEM AGAIN.
WHAT DID HE SAY?!!
WHA ...

ADDING ON CONDI-TIONS?! THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT TO YOUR LACK OF RE-SPECT!! YOU NEED TO ABIDE BY OUR RULES
ARE YOU MAKING LIGHT OF LADY MAADER'S KINDNESS?!
NOW?! WHAT AN IDIOTIC DEMAND...

IN BUSINESS, IT'S NOT JUST MONEY AND CONFIDENCE THAT ARE IMPORTANT.
AND, NO MATTER WHAT "OPTIONS" YOU HAVE, TO TURN THE TABLES IN YOUR FAVOR.
IT'S ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE ANY SITUATION


IN FACT, WITH THESE CONDITIONS AND THE WAY MY PRESENCE WILL ATTRACT AN AUD ENCE TO YOUR ARENA, YOU'RE GETTING OFF CHEAP.
NO. IT'S ONLY NATURAL WHEN YOU TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE BOX-OFFICE REVENUE OF HAVING A DUNGEON CONQUEROR APPEAR IN YOUR ARENA.

.....I KNOW THIS IS JUST A BLUFF... BUT...

THAT'S RIGHT... LIKE I'D STAND BACK AND WATCH THEM CRUSH THE COMPANY WE STRUGGLED TO BUILD FROM THE GROUND UP..

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE COMPANY... I HAVE TO USE THE COMPANY AS MY SHIELD AND MAKE THEM BELIEVE THAT IT HAS NO VALUE...

IN ORDER TO GET THE UPPER HAND OVER YOUR OPPONENT, CREATE A SITUATION WHERE THE FINAL "CHOICE" IS YOUR OWN. THAT IS THE KEY TO NEGOTIATING.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS SWORD MATCH WAS SET UP AS A TRAP SO, I HAVE TO IMPROVE MY POSITION, EVEN IF ONLY SLIGHTLY .. DON'T LET THEM REALIZE... DON'T LET THEM SUSPECT... OTHERWISE...

IN EXCHANGE, IF I BET MYSELF, WHETHER OR NOT I PARTICIPATE IN THE MATCH IS MY "CHOICE."

I'VE LOST... YOU'VE GOT A WAY WITH WORDS. I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CONDITIONS.

I GET IT.

ギギ...

AS SOON AS YOU SIGN IN THE PARTICIPANT'S COLUMN, THE MARIADEL COMPANY WILL PAY OFF YOUR COMPANY'S DEBT.

OUR COMPANY'S SEAL HAS BEEN STAMPED ON THIS CONTRACT

YES!

KIL, BRING ME THE PARCHMENT...

たったっ

.....

THIS IS FINE.

JUST AS WE AGREED. IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'LL PARTICIPATE IN YOUR SWORD MATCH.

AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO PROTECT SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY ...

BOTH YOU AND I AGREED TO THE CONDITIONS. DON'T FORGET THAT FOR EVEN A SECOND...

JUST REMEMBER THIS. FOR A MERCHANT, A "CONTRACT" IS SOMETHING WE ADHERE TO ABOVE ALL ELSE. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR REASONS MAY BE, I WON'T ALLOW THE CONTRACT TO BE BROKEN.

DUNGEON CONQUEROR SINBAD HAS AGREED TO BET ON HIMSELF, AND THE SWORD MATCH OF THE CENTURY HAS BEEN DECIDED!
IN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT, "RIA VENUS ISLAND."
THE MATCH WILL BE IN THREE DAYS. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE MAIN BRANCH OF OUR COMPANY.....
I'LL PUT ON A MARVELOUS SHOW, SO EVERYONE, PLEASE BE SURE TO COME AND SEE IT.
ポカーン…
パチ…
パチ
パチ

.....A REASON FOR MAADER TO TARGET US.
... TO GET HER HANDS ON "ME"!
EVEN IF SHE WANTS TO CRUSH SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE DESPISES ME. HER REAL OBJECTIVE IS PROBABLY...
I USED THAT KNOWLEDGE TO TURN THE TABLES, FIGURING THAT MY DEMANDS WOULD BE ACCEPTED. THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO MAKE SUCH A RIDICULOUS BET.
BY USING A SWORD MATCH AS THE SETUP, SHE WORKED IN "SLAVERY" AS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS. SO, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WANTS ME.
BECAUSE I AM "THE MAN LOVED BY DESTINY."
AND I WON THAT BET. NATURALLY.

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF TRAP YOU THINK YOU'LL SET FOR ME...
THERE'S NO WAY THERE COULD BE A FUTURE IN WHICH I'M DEFEATED.
I'LL SHOW YOU THAT I CAN OVERCOME IT.
YOU AREN'T NEEDED IN MY FUTURE.
I'LL ELIMINATE ANY OBSTACLES IN MY WAY ..THAT'S BECAUSE
I WAS CHOSEN BY DESTINY TO FOLLOW THIS PATH.

I SPOKE WITH THE MARIADEL COMPANY.

AS OF TODAY, ALL OF SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY'S DEBTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.

EVERYONE, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL DUTIES.

ザワ ザワ

.....
SO, THAT MEANS WE CAN ALL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THIS COMPANY?

YEP.

FOR A MOMENT I WONDERED WHAT WOULD BECOME OF US ALL, BUT I'M SO GLAD THE COMPANY IS SAFE!!

HOORAY!!!

Yahoo!!

Yeah!!

IT'S OKAY IF WE ALL STAY HERE...

.....
SO THAT MEANS
.....

Hip Hip Hooray!!!

LET'S TAKE CARE OF ALL THE WORK THAT WE BUILT UP!!

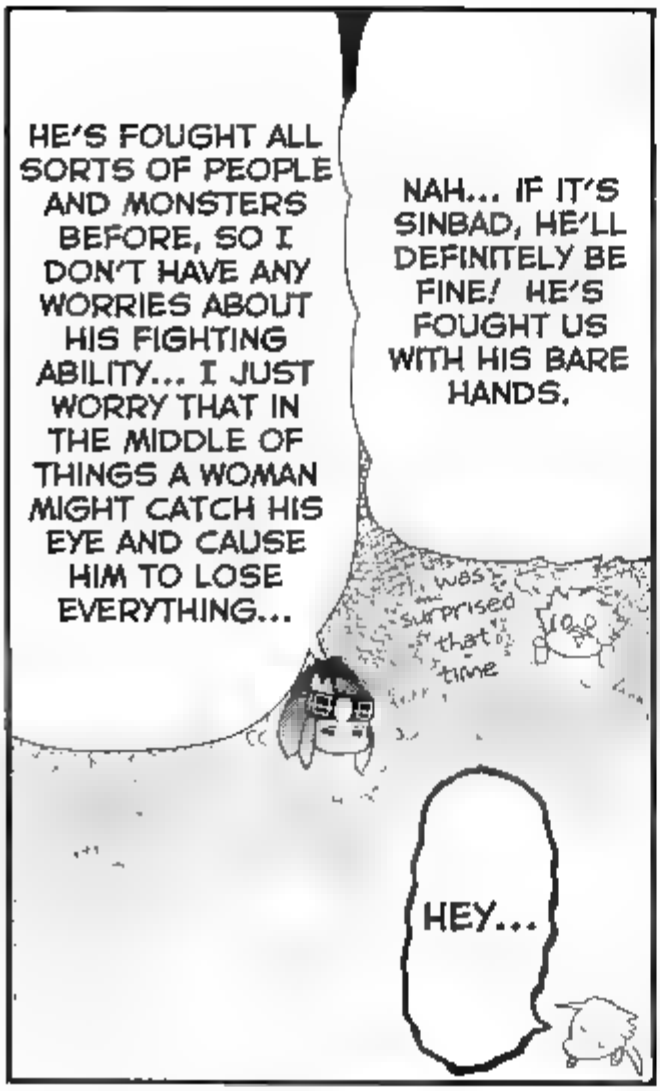
Show some regret

Yes.

YAY! THAT'S GREAT!!!

THE COMPANY WASN'T RUINED BECAUSE OF ME!!

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S ENERGY RETURNED.
THEY REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY... IT'S LIKE A HOME TO ALL OF US.


HE'S FOUGHT ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE AND MONSTERS BEFORE, SO I DON'T HAVE ANY WORRIES ABOUT HIS FIGHTING ABILITY... I JUST WORRY THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS A WOMAN MIGHT CATCH HIS EYE AND CAUSE HIM TO LOSE EVERYTHING...
NAH... IF IT'S SINBAD, HE'LL DEFINITELY BE FINE! HE'S FOUGHT US WITH HIS BARE HANDS.
was surprised that time
HEY...

TO THAT ARENA?
.... WELL, I'M OFF THEN.
IT STARTS IN 3 DAYS, SO I'VE GOTTA HURRY.
SURE. LEAVE IT TO ME. BE CAREFUL AND COME BACK IN ONE PIECE.
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS THE MATCH IS OVER. I'M COUNTING ON YOU 'TIL THEN.

WAIT JUST A MINUTE, SIN.
どっさっ
ガガガ
ワハハッ
EVEN I KEEP MY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AFFAIRS SEPARATE, HINAHOHO ...

GOING WITH YOU.

I'M

ムスーン

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN OUT ALL MY INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING WORK. EVERYTHING ELSE CAN BE HANDLED BY OUR EXCELLENT EMPLOYEES. IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

JA'FAR?! WHAT ABOUT WORK...?

.....

THIS WHOLE INCIDENT HAPPENED BECAUSE I WASN'T PAYING CLOSE ENOUGH ATTENTION TO WHAT THOSE AROUND US WERE SAYING.

BUT THIS ISN'T THE TYPE OF TRIP YOU NEED TO ACCOMPANY ME ON...

NO, IT REALLY IS.

THAT PART OF YOU IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT WAS THE DAY WE MET. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT SEES THE BAD THINGS ABOUT ME, THE THINGS I DISLIKE ABOUT MYSELF, AND TELLS ME ABOUT THEM SO FRANKLY. IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND THAT I CAN BE SURE THAT SOMEONE'S WATCHING MY BACK FOR ME.

KIL... YOU RIGHT AWAY.

IF SOMEDAY YOU BECOME BORING AND FAIL ME I'LL...

I'M NOT PLANNING TO BECOME SOMEONE'S SUBORDINATE.

WHAT?!! IS THERE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT?!

HAHA! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.

YOU ENTERED ENEMY TERRITORY ALONE AND ACCEPTED THIS RIDICULOUS MATCH... JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO IF IT'S A TRAP? YOU'RE TOO EGOTISTICAL. JUST THINK ABOUT HOW THE REST OF US FEEL!

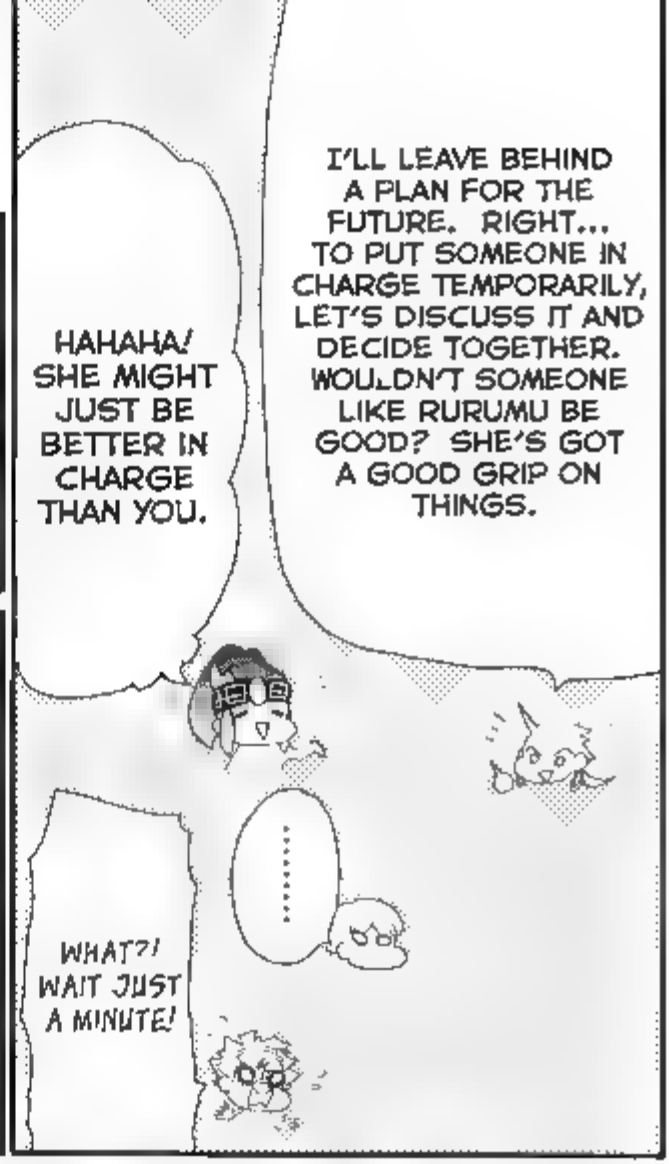
I SAID I'LL BE FINE. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. BUT...

TH... THAT'S JUST A NATURAL PART OF A SUBORDINATE'S JOB... MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS DURING THE SWORD MATCH, WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT IT? BEING LEFT WITHOUT THE HEAD OF THE COMPANY IS NO LAUGHING MATTER, IS IT?

THANKS... JA'FAR.

I CAN'T IMAGINE THIS COMPANY WITHOUT SINBAD.
I'M HERE BECAUSE SINBAD IS HERE.

PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH CARELESS THINGS...!
VITTEL ...


I'LL LEAVE BEHIND A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. RIGHT... TO PUT SOMEONE IN CHARGE TEMPORARILY, LET'S DISCUSS IT AND DECIDE TOGETHER. WOULDN'T SOMEONE LIKE RURUMU BE GOOD? SHE'S GOT A GOOD GRIP ON THINGS.
HAHAHA! SHE MIGHT JUST BE BETTER IN CHARGE THAN YOU.
WHAT?! WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

YOU RE...

OF COURSE. I WAS JUST JOKING AROUND.
SINBAD.

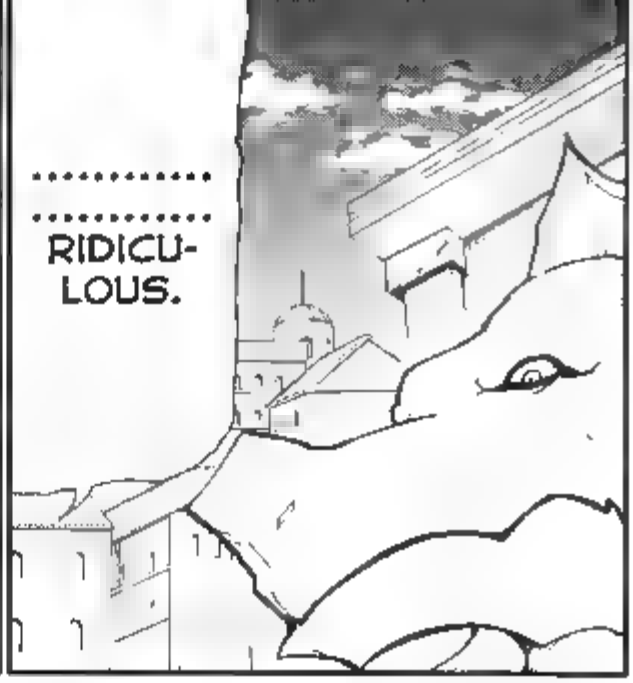
... HMPH. YOU HAVE THE DEVIL'S LUCK AS ALWAYS, SINBAD...

BEING KID-NAPPED BY A BUSINESS RIVAL... MOREOVER A FEMALE TRADER... ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE YOU AND YOUR COMPANY?
PRINCESS SERENDINE!
PRINCESS, THAT'S NOT WHAT...
HOW DEPLORABLE... WHERE'S YOUR HUMILITY AS THE LEADER OF THE COMPANY?
WITH THAT LEWD LOOK ON YOUR FACE, SHE PROBABLY SEDUCED YOU, TOO, DIDN'T SHE?
SIN?!
ツヤッカ
LET'S GET GOING BEFORE THIS TURNS INTO SOMETHING TROUBLE-SOME, S.N.
SHE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS...
.....
ビクッ

YOUNG LADY... YOU...
スッ
ARE YOU... JEALOUS?
IS THAT REALLY OKAY? ... LETTING ME SEE SUCH A CUTE SIDE OF YOU?
OH... HOW NICE. ALL BECAUSE OF ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY YOU HATE ME?

ピッ
THERE'S A LEAF
CAUGHT IN YOUR HAIR.
WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! I DON'T... THAT'S RIDICULOUS!!
!!!
EVEN IF YOU WON'T ADMIT IT, I KNOW IT'S TRUE. LOOK...
BUT YOU WERE WAITING HERE JUST TO SEE ME OFF, WEREN'T YOU?
プル
プル
プル
PRINCESS! LORD SINBAD DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BAD...
PRINCESS?
HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY... THAT IS... UMM...
あらあら
I'M HAPPY, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR YOU TO CATCH A COLD WAITING OUT HERE.
I WONDER, HOW LONG WERE YOU WAITING HERE FOR ME?
DON'T WORRY WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON.
AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT YOU, THE GODDESS OF VICTORY, ON MY SIDE, DON'T I, YOUNG LADY?

JUST WHAT... IS CUTE ABOUT ME..... .....?


.... RIDICU-LOUS.

SOMETHING LIKE "YOUNG LADY" SO MANY TIMES...
TO CALL THAT... TO CALL ME...
I AM... THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF PARTHEVIA. THE POISONOUS SPIDER PRINCESS THAT, AS A WARRIOR, LED THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS INTO BATTLE.

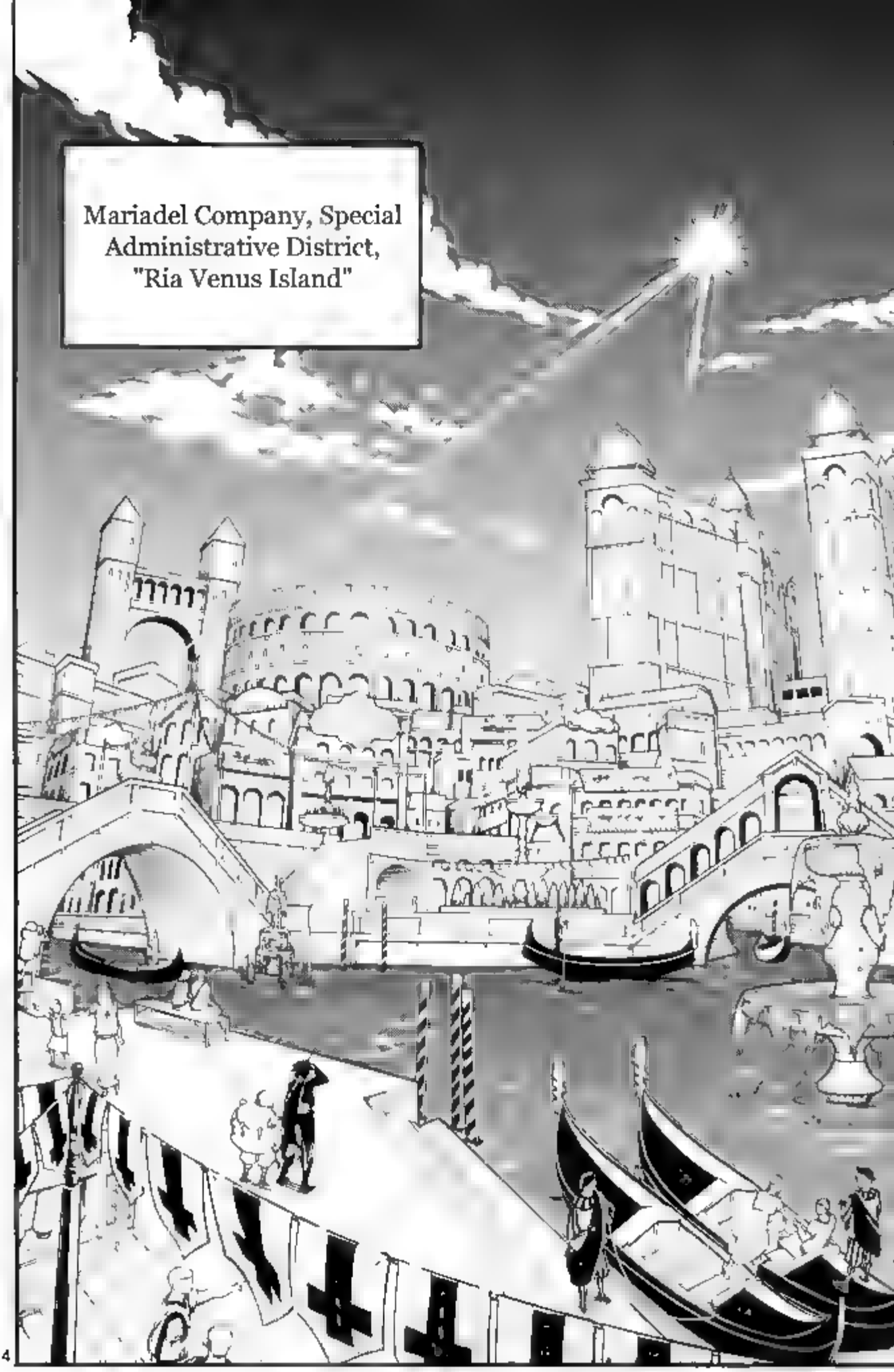
THAT MAN REALLY IS... BOLD, ARRO-GANT, EGO-TISTICAL...
SOMEONE LIKE THAT ...
I...

I..... WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW .....?

3 Days Later

A... AMAZ-ING!! THIS IS... THIS IS.....

THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE MARIADEL COMPANY..... "RIA VENUS ISLAND"!!


Mariadel Company, Special Administrative District, "Ria Venus Island"

RIA VENUS ISLAND!
THIS IS...

"RIA VENUS ISLAND"
ONE OF THE MAIN LOCATIONS OF TRADE OWNED BY THE PROMINENT AND POWERFUL FAMILIES OF THE MARIADEL COMPANY.
BUILT TO SHOW APPRECIATION TO MERCHANTS FROM VARIOUS PLACES, IT BECAME A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN PRIVATELY ENJOY POPULAR ATTRACTIONS LIKE CASINOS AND THE ARENA. NOW, IT SERVES AS A CENTER OF COMMERCE WHERE TOURISTS COME AND GO FREELY.
EVEN IF IT'S REFERRED TO AS A SINGLE FACILITY, IT'S REALLY AS LARGE AS A TOWN. THAT SHOWS JUST HOW MUCH POLITICAL POWER AND HOW MANY RESOURCES THE MARIADEL COMPANY ACTUALLY HAS, BUT..
HM?
YOU JUST JUMPED RIGHT IN, BUT YOU'RE AMAZING!
AWESOME! TEN WINS IN A ROW!
ざわ
ざわ
からから

TO EARN THAT MUCH WITH A SINGLE COIN... YOU HAVE UNBELIEVABLE LUCK!

フッ...

ニヤニヤ

NEXT, I'LL BET

スッ

ON 7 BLACK!

ALL OF IT

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SIN?!!

THIS PLACE IS FULL OF CASINOS, RIGHT? I THOUGHT I'D GO IN AND GIVE IT A TRY, AND I JUST KEPT WINNING...

ずるずる

SIN, PLEASE STOP ACTING LIKE WE'RE HERE SIGHT-SEEING.

Here you go

THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS FULL OF NOTHING BUT GAMBLING.

I THINK I MIGHT REALLY BE A TALENTED GAMBLER.

WHATEVER HAPPENS HERE, IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE OUTSIDE TO INTERFERE. IT'S LIKE A WHOLE SEPARATE COUNTRY.

ALTHOUGH IT'S A TERRITORY OF REIM, IT DOESN'T FOLLOW REIM'S LAWS, BUT IT'S A SELF-GOVERNED REGION WITH ITS OWN UNIQUE LAWS.

Want one?

THIS IS A "SPECIAL ADMINIS-TRATIVE DISTRICT."

Yes

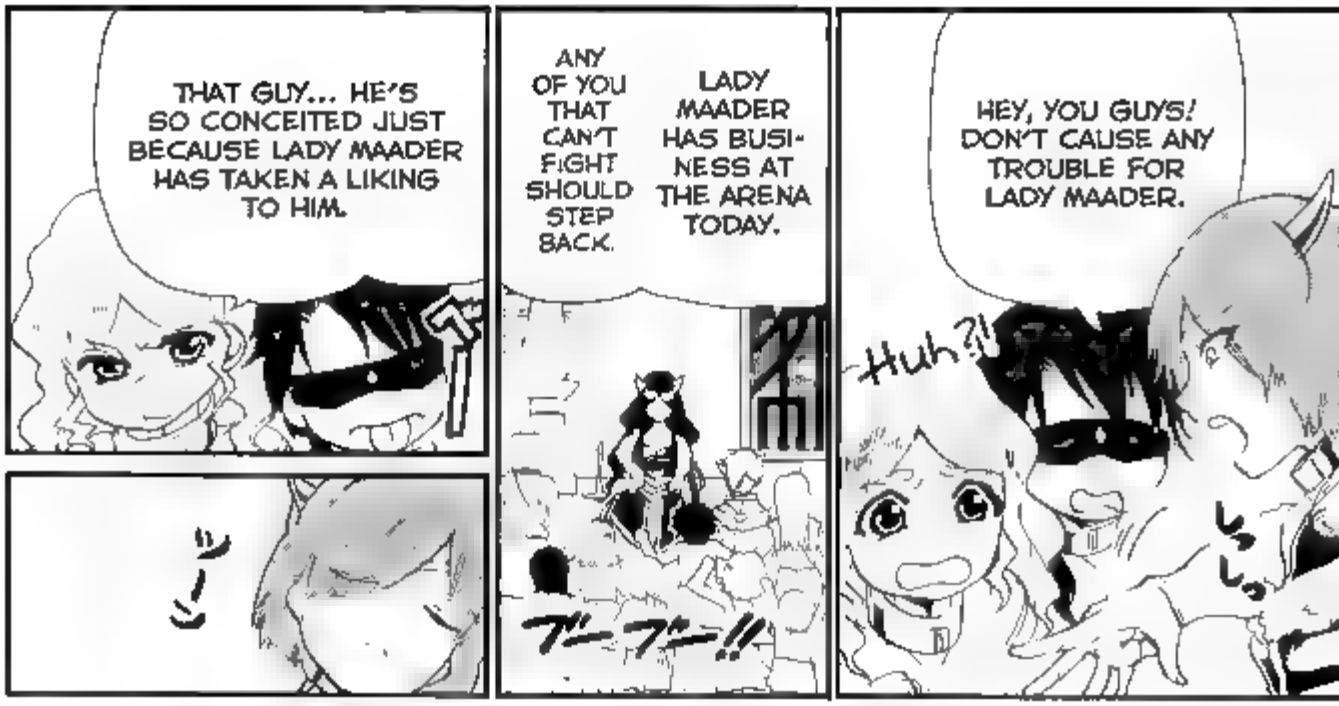
. . .

JA'FAR, I WANNA EAT THAT NEXT.

. . .

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR ENEMY'S HEADQUARTERS ...

カツーン
カツーン
IT'S LADY MAADER!
LADY MAADER!
LADY MAADER, LADY MAADER.
LADY MAADER, CAN'T YOU PLAY WITH US TODAY?
LADY MAADER, TAKE ME WITH YOU.
NO! SHE'S TAKING ME WITH HER TODAY!


THAT GUY... HE'S SO CONCEITED JUST BECAUSE LADY MAADER HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO HIM.
ツーン
ANY OF YOU THAT CAN'T FIGHT SHOULD STEP BACK.
LADY MAADER HAS BUSINESS AT THE ARENA TODAY.
ブーブー!!
HEY, YOU GUYS! DON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR LADY MAADER.
Huh?!

DON'T WORRY. ALL OF YOU ARE MY PRECIOUS LITTLE CHILDREN.
キャッキャッワーイ
NOW, NOW. NO FIGHTING.

YOU SHOULD COOPERATE AND NOT FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER, SO THAT YOU CAN HELP, PROTECT, AND SUPPORT ME. UNDERSTOOD?
IF YOU ALL CONTINUE TO BE SENSIBLE, FOLLOW MY ORDERS, AND ONLY LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY,
THEN YOU'LL DEFINITELY BECOME FINE ADULTS SOME DAY.

YES. I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.

ABOUT WHO WILL FACE THAT MAN SINBAD IN THE MATCH...

THERE ISN'T ANYONE SUITABLE EXCEPT FOR THAT CHILD.

HEHE.. YOU'RE SUCH GOOD CHILDREN, AREN'T YOU?

Yes!

SO, LADY MAADER..

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T RELEASE HIM FROM THE WEIGHT OF THE SHACKLES HE WEARS.

IT'S TRUE THAT BOY HAS YET TO COMPLETELY BECOME MY "CHILD"...

グッ グッ

BUT I HAVE HOPES FOR HIS FUTURE. THAT CHILD WILL DEFINITELY BECOME MY LITTLE BOY...

OH, YOU'RE DISSATISFIED?

...HIM?

NO, THAT'S NOT IT IT'S JUST THAT I CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S THINKING, SO...

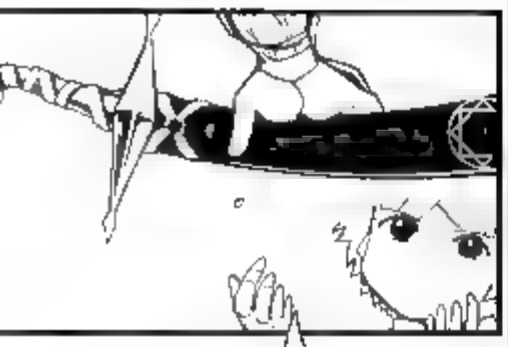
.....

FRANKLY, I DON'T LIKE HIM.

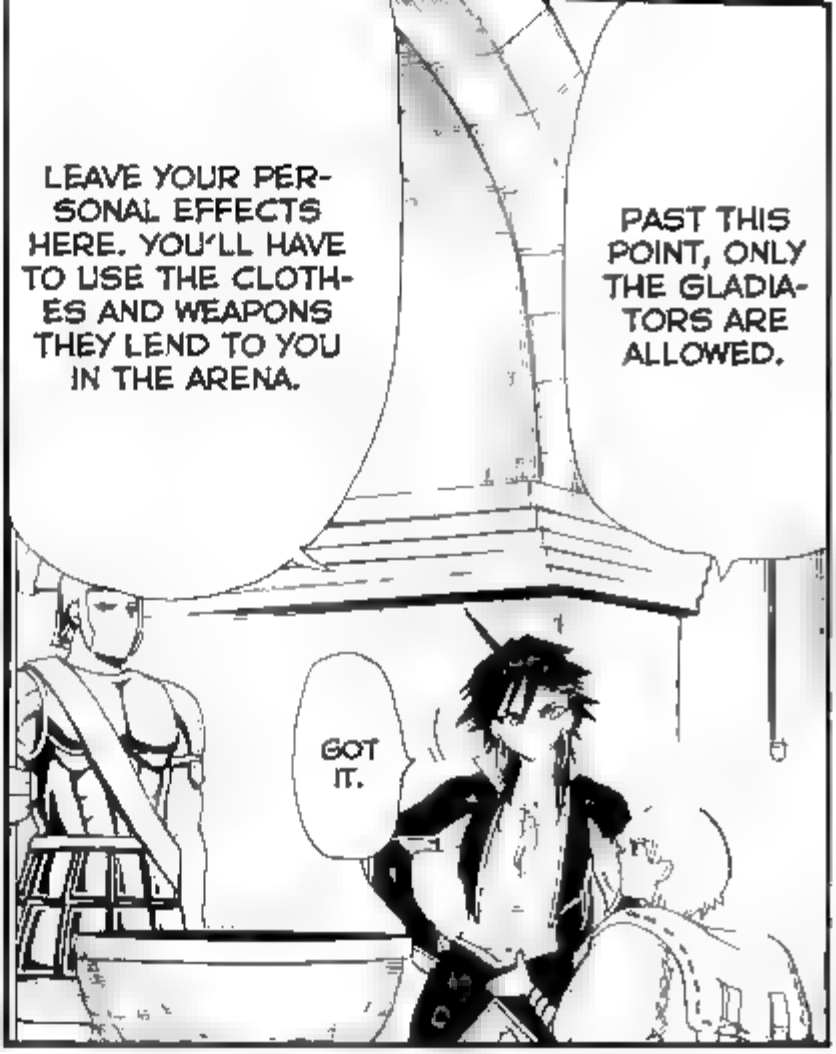
WELL... IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR APPEARANCE

MASRUR

....SIN, THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO.



...NOW YOU ARE JUST A REGULAR GUY WITH NO METAL VESSELS, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
ehehehe!


LEAVE YOUR PERSONAL EFFECTS HERE. YOU'LL HAVE TO USE THE CLOTHES AND WEAPONS THEY LEND TO YOU IN THE ARENA.
PAST THIS POINT, ONLY THE GLADIATORS ARE ALLOWED.
GOT IT.

WELL THEN, SEE YA LATER.

PLEASE FORGET EVERYTHING ABOUT MY DAYS AS AN ASSASSIN.
AND JUST WHO WAS IT THAT PICKED A FIGHT WITH THIS NORMAL GUY IN THE PAST?
Ugh

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うーん
TODAY'S MATCH IS A SPECIAL MATCH THAT CAN BE SEEN JUST THIS ONCE! THE CHALLENGER IS THAT MAN...
NOW WE BRING YOU THE SWORD MATCH SPONSORED BY THE MARIADEL COMPANY.

SINBAD!
THE YOUNG DUNGEON CONQUER-OR! HIS NAME IS ....
THE ADVEN-TURER WHO HAS CROSSED MANY SEAS AND SENT HIS NAME THUNDERING ACROSS THE LANDS.
I THINK MANY OF YOU MAY BE HERE TODAY TO SEE HIM FOR YOURSELF...

SO THIS IS AN ARENA... IT FEELS A BIT INTIMI-DATING.
BUT THE AUDIENCE IS ENTHUSI-ASTIC...!
ワァァ!!
ワァァ!!

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THIS IS A ONE-ON-ONE SWORD MATCH... IN FACT, THE THOUGHT OF FIGHTING A MATCH WITH NO METAL VESSELS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME IS PRETTY EXHILARATING.

THAT'S IT. THIS PLACE ISN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE AMPHITHEATER IN NAPOLIA.

DUNGEONS FEEL MORE TENSE. BUT ...

チラッ

NO MATTER WHO MY OPPONENT IS, I'LL WIN!

THE RED BEAST HAS SENT OVER ONE HUNDRED GLADIATORS TO THEIR GRAVES!

WITH TEETH STRONG ENOUGH TO TEAR DOWN TO THE BONE IF HE GETS A HOLD OF HIS OPPONENT'S NECK,

A WARRIOR OF RENOWNED MILITARY SERVICE KNOWN BY ALL HERE ON RIA VENUS ISLAND!

AND REPRESENTING THE MARIADEL COMPANY,

...HEY, HEY... WAIT A MINUTE...
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ゴゴゴゴ
CAN OUR YOUNG CHALLENGER DEFEAT THE BEAST?!
A... A KID?

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?! NO MATTER HOW BIG A SPECTACLE YOU WANNA MAKE THIS, I CAN'T FIGHT A CHILD..
... WHAT THE HELL IS HE?!!

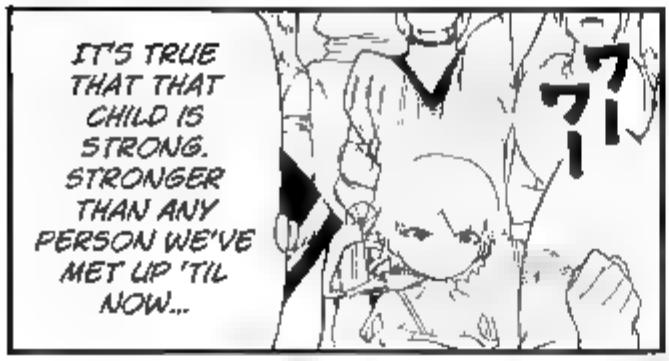
SIN!!
WHAT AMAZING PHYSICAL STRENGTH! I THINK EVEN MOST ADULTS WOULD FIND IT HARD TO WIELD A SWORD LIKE THAT...
WHAT THE HELL? THIS MASRUR BRAT IS... NO, FOCUS ON THE MATCH. THE PROBLEM IS THAT GIGANTIC SWORD...

HE'S FAST ...!!

WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLE ATTACK... IF IT HIT SOMEONE, THEY WOULD DIE INSTANTLY... THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE COULD SURVIVE IN ONE PIECE.
THAT CHILD JUST CAN'T CONTROL HIS STRENGTH.
MY, MY. HE'S DESTROYING THE ARENA AGAIN...
HE CUT THE ARENA WALL CLEAN IN TWO?!!

HE'S... TRANSCENDED HUMAN ABILITY!!

THAT CHILD... ISN'T NORMAL.



AS A DUNGEON CONQUEROR, SINBAD IS..... DIFFERENT!!!
THAT'S IF WE'RE TALKING A BOUT AN ORDINARY PERSON.
GRIN
?
FINISH THE MATCH NOW, MASRUR.
YOU'RE THIS STRONG AS JUST A CHILD. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU GROW UP...
YOU'RE PRETTY AMAZING, AREN'T YOU, KID?
BUT...

!!
.....
HUH?
...DON'T WORRY YOU'RE JUST A KID, SO I'LL USE THE BACK OF MY SWORD...
IF WE'RE ONLY COMPETING IN SWORDSMANSHIP, THERE ARE GUYS BETTER THAN YOU. YOU LOSE THIS ONE.
I'M MORE EXPERIENCED THAN YOU ARE.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE OR HOW HUGE YOUR SWORD IS, YOUR SKILLS ARE STILL THAT OF A CHILD.

만삼천

.....
DAMN IT.....
I..... FAILED TO PREDICT... THIS.....
...THOSE EYES...
IT CAN'T BE... DID MAADER KNOW THAT IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY...?
!!?

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THIS WAS...
HER... GOAL.....?

(SFX): ...silence...

WHICH MEANS THE WINNER IS... MARIADEL COMPANY'S GLADIATOR, MASRUR!!
SINBAD HAS LOST CON-SCIOUS-NESS...

コクン

I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SEE A MATCH LIKE THIS?!
ブルブル
A DUNGEON CONQUEROR LOST THAT QUICKLY?!
AND I BET ON SINBAD...

HUH...? IT'S OVER?
ザワザワ...
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?!

OH...
ワーン

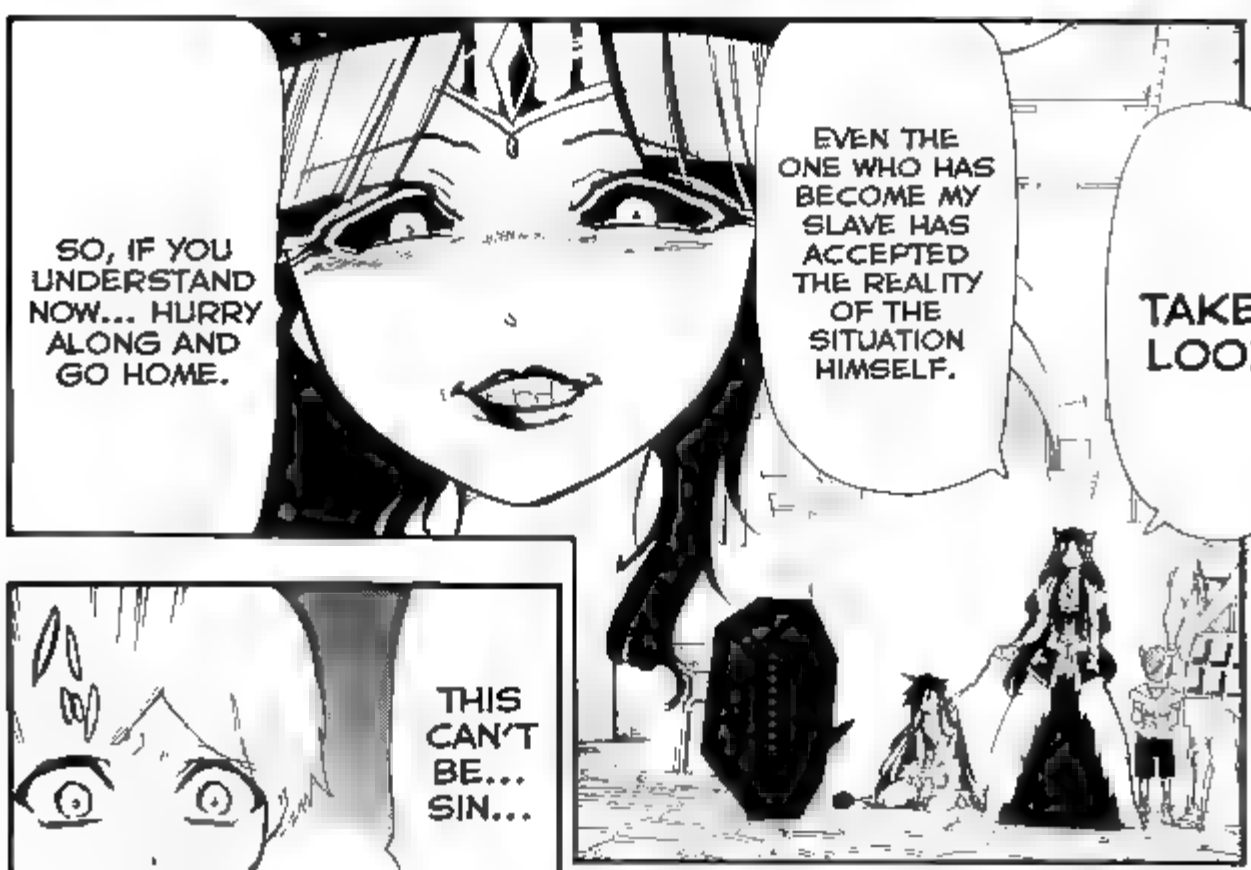
THERE'S NO RESPONSE FROM THE HOUSEHOLD VESSEL...?! THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE... SO WHY NOW?!
.....!?
しーん...

!!
YOU!!
THAT CHILD WHO IS FRIENDS WITH SINBAD, AREN'T YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
YOU' RE...
HUH? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE! THIS MATCH!! IT WAS A TRAP AFTER ALL, WASN'T IT?!

IF YOU'RE THAT DETERMINED TO CONTEST IT, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?
!! ... BUT ...
HUH?
YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU? THEY BOTH HAD A FAIR CHANCE. I MAY HAVE CHOSEN A RATHER SPECIAL GLADIATOR, BUT ISN'T THAT ONLY FAIR WHEN FACING A DUNGEON CONQUEROR?
OF COURSE NOT.
THERE'S NO WAY SIN COULD LOSE THAT EASILY! YOU ARRANGED ALL OF IT, DIDN'T YOU?!
BRING HIM HERE.
THIS... CAN'T BE... SIN...

...JA'FAR...
STOP.....
IT'S JUST LIKE...
SHE SAID...
I... LOST...

I STILL HAVE THE CONTRACT. FOR A MERCHANT, A CONTRACT IS SOMETHING BINDING..... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SINBAD?
HE ACCEPTED THOSE TERMS AND FOUGHT THE MATCH.
IF HE LOST, HE WOULD BECOME MY SLAVE. THAT'S THE CONTRACT WE MADE.


SO, IF YOU UNDERSTAND NOW... HURRY ALONG AND GO HOME.
EVEN THE ONE WHO HAS BECOME MY SLAVE HAS ACCEPTED THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION HIMSELF.
TAKE A LOOK.

THIS CAN'T BE... SIN...

ジャラッ
.....
WELL THEN, FARE-WELL.
!!

.....
SIN.
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T SAVE YOU AS I AM NOW.....
BUT I'M ALSO NOT GIVING UP. I'LL DEFINITELY... DEFINITELY...
UNTIL THEN... PLEASE STAY SAFE...
FIND A WAY TO COME BACK AND FREE YOU.
ゲッ...
ハーハー

I RESPECT YOU AND INTEND TO SERVE YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!
I'M NOT LYING! I'M YOUR SLAVE, LADY MAADER!!
ドドド
PLEASE! LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
DAMN IT...

A few hours earlier...
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR ...
WHAT THE HELL MADE HER SO UPSET?
WELCOME. THIS WILL BE YOUR HOME FROM NOW ON.

A HOME?
THIS IS...
IT LOOKS A LOT MORE LIKE A MONASTERY OR A CHURCH...
INSTEAD OF A HOME...
STOP IT! LADY MAADER IS BUSY.
LISTEN TO MY STORY!
LET'S PLAY!
LADY MAADER, WELCOME HOME.
キャッ!
キャッ!
IT'S LADY MAADER!
LADY MAADER!

WE TAKE IN WAR ORPHANS AND CHILDREN WITH NO RELATIVES AND MAKE THEM INTO SLAVES.
ALTHOUGH, EVEN IF YOU WANT TO CALL THEM SLAVES, MOST OF THEM ARE AT AN AGE WHERE THEY CAN'T DO MUCH. THEY DON'T DO ANY REAL WORK.
UNDER THIS ROOF, THEY'RE GRANTED THE AUTHORITY TO EAT, DRINK, AND SLEEP WHENEVER THEY WANT, JUST LIKE ORDINARY CHILDREN.
THERE ARE SO MANY SLAVES... AND THEY'RE ONLY CHILDREN...
ALL OF THE SLAVES HERE ARE CHILDREN.
ARE YOU SURPRISED?
ALL OF THIS...
WAS SET UP BY LADY MAADER.
GRIN

YOU PUT SO MUCH THOUGHT INTO TAKING CARE OF YOUR SLAVES...
LADY MAADER ...
YOU'RE A KIND, NOBLE, AND BEAUTIFUL PERSON...
MY BELOVED MASTER. YOU'RE EVERYTHING TO ME...
LADY MAADER...
I'M HONORED TO BE ABLE TO SERVE A PERSON LIKE YOU.

SILENCE.
SUCH INSOLENCE... HOW DARE YOU, A SLAVE, SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT...?
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF MY "CHILDREN" YET.
OW...?!
YOU NEED ...
TO BE "PUNISHED" .....
BUT I TRULY AM GLAD TO HAVE SOMEONE BEAUTIFUL LIKE MISS MAADER AS MY MASTER...
JUST WHAT WAS WRONG WITH WHAT I SAID? I DON'T GET IT.
... AND IS THIS WHAT SHE MEANT BY "PUNISHMENT"?

IT SEEMS LIKE I'M BEING PUNISHED BY BEING PUT IN THIS CHAMBER, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE PLANNING ON FILLING IT WITH ANY MORE WATER...
THE WATER'S SO SHALLOW IT BARELY COMES UP TO MY ANKLES...

IS IT SOME KIND OF TRICK TO SCARE CHILDREN?
JUST WHAT ABOUT THIS IS "PUNISHMENT"?

..... WELL, IF SHE'S GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO GET HER HANDS ON ME, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL KILL ME...
IF I JUST WAIT, SHE'LL HAVE TO LET ME OUT SOONER OR LATER. I JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT UNTIL THEN.
I'L do that

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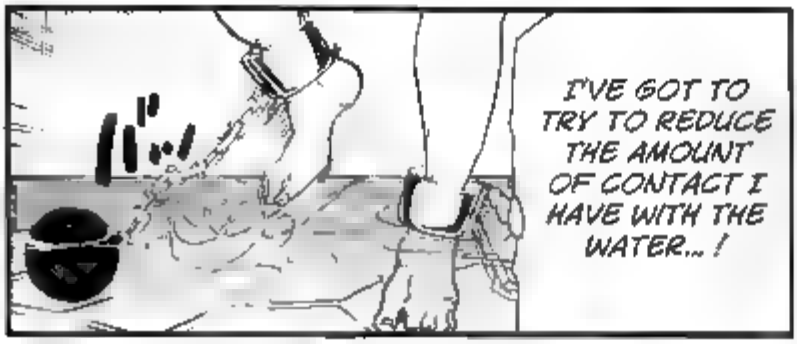
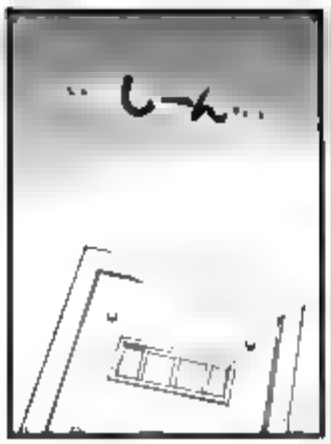
IT'S...

COLD...??

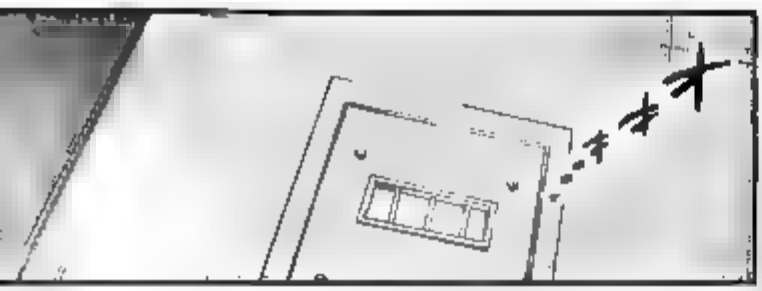

I'VE GOT TO TRY TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CONTACT I HAVE WITH THE WATER...!

WHY?! I WAS FINE UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO...
..... COULD IT BE... THE WATER?
I LET MY GUARD DOWN... NO MATTER HOW SHALLOW IT IS, WATER IS WATER. IT'S REDUCING MY BODY TEMPERA-TURE BIT BY BIT...


しーん...

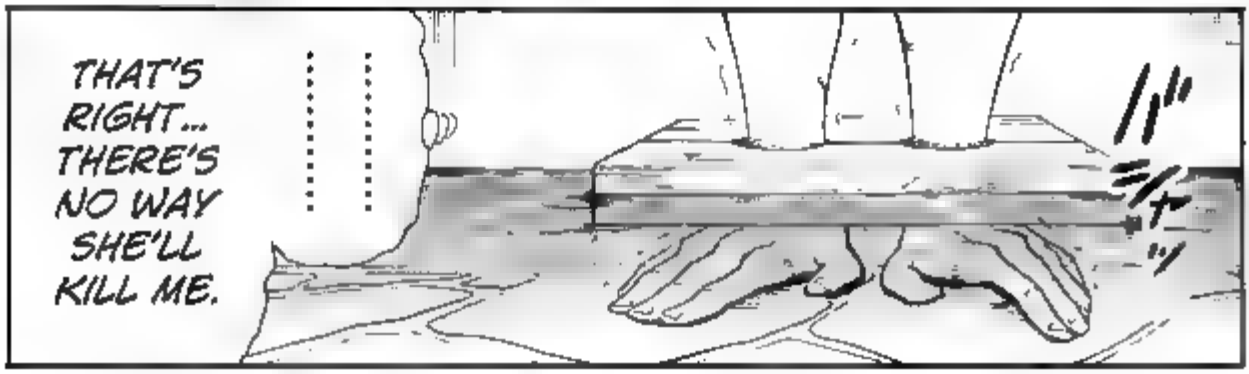
HEY!!
I'VE REFLECTED ENOUGH!! PLEASE HURRY UP AND LET ME OUT! IT'S SO COLD I CAN'T STAND IT!

.....



ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?!

IS THIS REALLY OKAY?! IF YOU LEAVE ME SOAKING WET LIKE THIS, MY BODY TEMPERATURE WILL CONTINUE TO DROP AND I'LL DIE.



WILL I REALLY BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE...?
THAT'S RIGHT... WHY DID I THINK THAT SOMEONE MIGHT COME TO LET ME OUT SOON...?
HOW MANY MORE MINUTES... MORE HOURS...
MORE DAYS DO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THIS DOOR TO OPEN?
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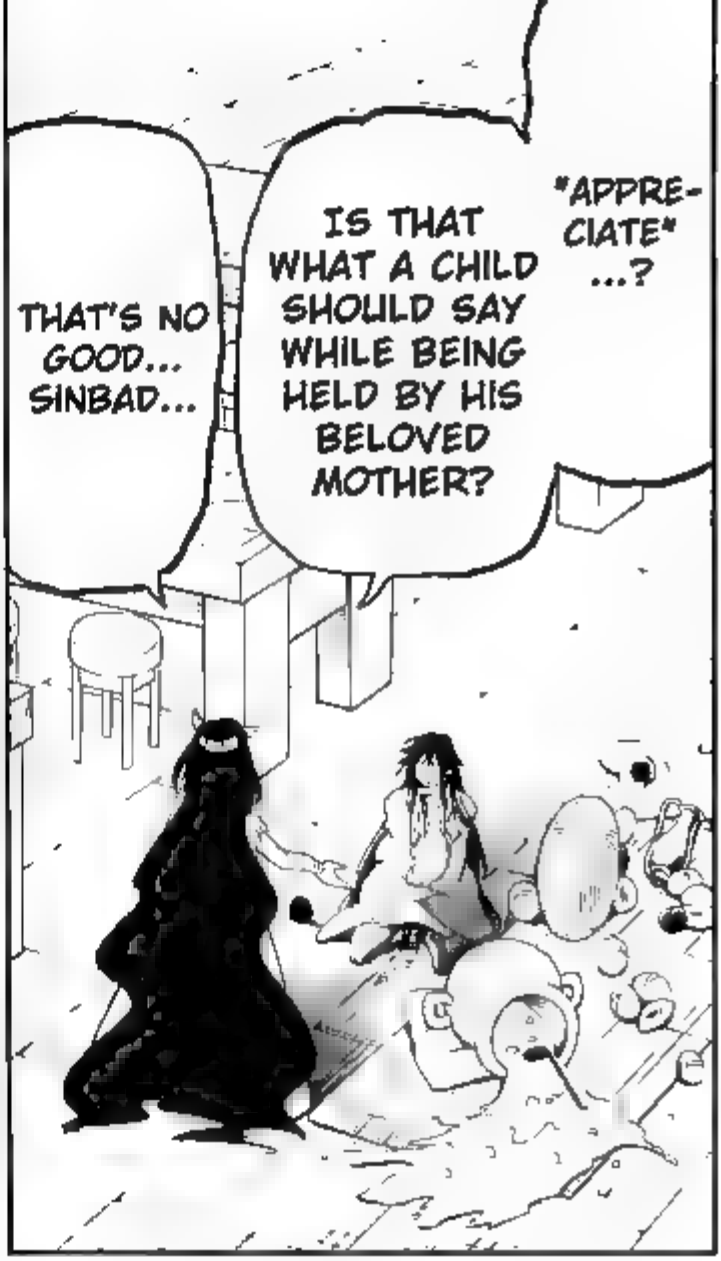
ガチガチッ
IF MAADER GIVES UP ON ME, WILL I JUST BE LEFT HERE LIKE THIS?
I'M COLD... SO COLD... TOO COLD.....
NO ONE IS COMING...
HOW MANY HOURS HAVE I BEEN IN HERE?
THE WATER IS... FREEZING ME TO THE BONE.
NO MATTER WHAT I TRY, MY TEMPERATURE KEEPS DROPPING. I'M SO COLD IT FEELS LIKE I'M ON A SNOWY MOUNTAINSIDE...
I CAN'T STOP MY HANDS FROM SHAKING...
IN THIS COLD... IF MY BODY CAN'T WITHSTAND IT, I'LL...
WHAT IF I STAY LIKE THIS..... IF I STAY HERE LIKE THIS.....
THERE'S NOTHING THAT GUARANTEES THAT I'LL BE SAVED.
AND THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT LED TO MY DEFEAT IN THE ARENA.
BECAUSE I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT SHE'D KILL ME, I WASN'T REALLY WORRIED. ..... BUT THAT WAS JUST AN ASSUMPTION. IT WAS MY ARROGANCE

I STOPPED
ハァ
ハァハァ
SHIVERING...
DYING...?
AM I...
ガチガチ
ガチ
YOU MUST HAVE FELT HELPLESS IN THERE, DIDN'T YOU...? BUT IT'S FINE NOW. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.
YOU'RE SHIVERING SO MUCH...
OH... YOU POOR THING.
パチパチ

HERE... SLEEP IN MOTHER'S ARMS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL SCARED ANYMORE ...
THANK YOU...I APPRECIATE IT, LADY MAADER...
SO WARM ...
MAYBE NOW... I WON'T EVER HAVE TO BE LOCKED UP LIKE THAT AGAIN...
ガシャーン!!

ONE OF MY "CHILDREN."
YOU'RE STILL NOT...


THAT'S NO GOOD... SINBAD...
IS THAT WHAT A CHILD SHOULD SAY WHILE BEING HELD BY HIS BELOVED MOTHER?
"APPRECIATE" ...?

"PUNISHMENT"?!
MORE "PUNISHMENT." TAKE HIM AWAY.
I'M GOING TO BE LOCKED UP IN THAT ROOM AGAIN?!!

UNTIL YOU ACCEPT ME FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART...
UNTIL YOU REALLY BECOME MY "CHILD"...

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU? I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES.
.....

PLEASE! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY. I'LL CHANGE MY BAD HABITS AND THE WAY I SPEAK. SO PLEASE, DON'T PUNISH ME ANYMORE!! I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THAT FREEZING, DEATH-LIKE COLD . . .!!

WILL NEVER END.

YOUR PUNISH-MENT...

NO, NO, NO...

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK IN THERE...

NO!!

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ガシッ

NO!!

TL N: Either the author made a mistake, or the island has another name.

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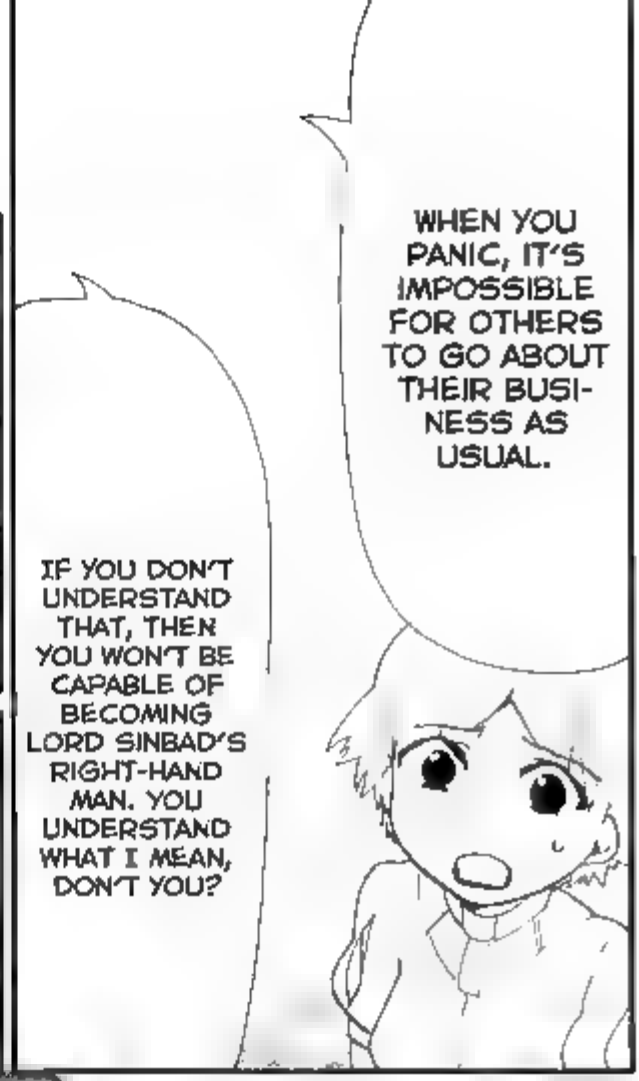
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS COMPANY WITHOUT ITS LEADER?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ABOUT MR SINBAD'S SAFETY?! NOW S NOT THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT WORK...

FOR MR. SINBAD TO LOSE...

ザワザワ

EVERYONE! PLEASE STOP ARGUING!
MI... MISS RURUMU ?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?! SHOULDN'T YOU BE BACK AT HOME GIVING BIRTH...?
JA'FAR ...
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW? I'M SURE I TAUGHT YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT SITUATION YOU FIND YOURSELF IN, YOU MUST TAKE THE TIME TO CALMLY PLAN A COURSE OF ACTION.



Yo! Long time no see!

PI... PIPIRIKA ?!!

OR SHOULD I SAY... "DADDY"!
BROTHER ...
YEAH... THEY WERE BORN WITHOUT PROBLEMS.
THIS PLACE IS FULL OF GUYS, RIGHT? I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED SOMEONE TO HELP LOOK AFTER THE KIDS, SO I TAGGED ALONG!
WHY ARE YOU HERE ..?!
LOOK AFTER THE KIDS? YOU MEAN ?!
YOU HAVE TWO NEW, HEALTHY TWIN DAUGHTERS!

IN ORDER TO TAKE CARE OF THE DEBTS INCURRED BY VITTEL, LORD SINBAD ENDED UP BECOMING A SLAVE... WHAT A DIFFICULT SITUATION.
...I UNDER-STAND.
WE CAN'T CHANGE WHAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPP-ENED ALSO FALLS ON ME. AFTER ALL, I LEFT YOU HERE TO LOOK AFTER THINGS ALONE.
DON'T HANG YOUR HEAD, VITTEL.
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
WE MUST WORK TOGETHER.
LET'S DEVOTE ALL OUR ENERGY TO FIGURING OUT A WAY TO RESCUE LORD SINBAD.

WITH THE LOOK IN HIS EYES... SIN HAS NOT GIVEN UP. IF HE CAN STILL FOCUS ON HIS GOALS, THEN WE MUST MOVE FORWARD, TOO...
... HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT...
JAFAR, YOU WERE THE LAST ONE TO SEE LORD SINBAD. WHAT DID HE SAY ...?
AT THAT TIME, I THOUGHT ...

WE HAVE NO REAL MEANS OF DISPUTING ANYTHING. EVEN IF WE APPEAL TO OUR ALLIES OR OTHER OUTSIDE HELP, IT'S STILL A DISPUTE BETWEEN MERCHANTS.

OUR DEBTS AND THIS INCIDENT ARE A RESULT OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS MADE WITH THE MARIADEL COMPANY...

HOWEVER, WE'RE ONLY AN AVERAGE COMPANY.

SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY IS A NEW ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE, LITTLE KNOWLEDGE, AND FEW SUPPORTERS. SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO RELY ON OUTSIDE HELP. FOR EXAMPLE, THE KING OF BALBADD, KING RASHID. THANKS TO HIS GUIDANCE, WE WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH THIS COMPANY. IN A WAY, HE'S OUR BENEFACTOR.

I HEARD THAT WITH HIS HEAD FOR BUSINESS, IN A SINGLE GENERATION, KING RASHID TURNED BALBADD INTO A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY OF MARITIME TRADE. IF HE LEARNS OF THE DANGER HIS FRIEND SINBAD IS IN, SURELY HE'LL HELP US FIGURE OUT A WAY TO FIGHT THIS AS MERCHANTS.

THERE'S A MAJOR ASSEMBLY HELD FOR WORLD LEADERS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

AND THAT ASSEMBLY IS HELD HERE IN THE CENTER OF THE WORLD, REIM EMPIRE'S CAPITAL, REMANO.

I'LL BE BACK!

EVERYONE, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL DUTIES. THINGS WILL BE BUSY FROM NOW ON!
AS SENIOR STAFF MEMBER, I, RURUMU, WILL TAKE ON THE POSITION AS THE TEMPORARY HEAD OF THE COMPANY!
MISS SERENDINE, MR. DRAKON.
オオー!!
……

IF YOU ARE OKAY WITH MY HELP...
WHAT A JOKE! WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO WORK FOR SINBAD'S COMPANY ...?!

HOWEVER, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO HELP WITH OUR COMPANY'S WORK.
I HEARD ABOUT YOUR SITUATION.
YOU WANT OUR HELP ?!!
YES. EVEN ONE EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS WILL BE HELPFUL.

WHAT ...?!!
MISS SEREN-DINE.

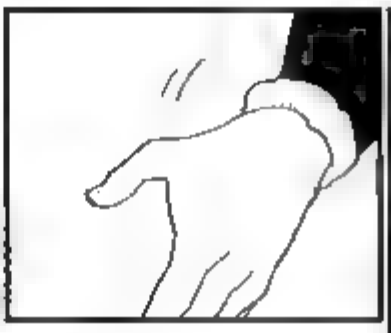
PRINCESS ...WE OWE SINBAD OUR GRATITUDE...
I... I STILL DON'T APPROVE OF HIM ...!

"YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW," RIGHT...? SO WHY SHOULD I...
THAT MAN WAS OVERCONFIDENT IN HIS OWN STRENGTH, AND THAT LED TO HIS ENSLAVEMENT...
ギュッ...

パチン
HOWEVER, YOU FLED YOUR COUNTRY AND NOW TAKING REFUGE HERE, AT THE SINDRIA TRADING COMPANY.
I AM THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF IMUCHAKK... ALTHOUGH OUR POSITIONS MAY BE DIFFERENT, I STILL BEAR THE ROLE OF A PRINCESS JUST LIKE YOU.
BUT... I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ...IS IT REALLY OKAY TO SAY SOMETHING NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME? ...HOW CAN I EVEN EXPRESS MY FEELINGS? ...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
EVERYONE HAS... SINBAD HAS... DONE SO MUCH FOR ME... AND... I KNOW THAT...
I ALREADY KNOW THAT.
SHOULDN'T YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?
WHO HAS PROTECTED YOU AND SUPPORTED YOU UP UNT... TODAY...?
...I ALREADY

I'M SORRY ....

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, JUST DO WHATEVER YOU THINK IS RIGHT...



THERE'S NO ONE HERE THAT WOULDN'T SMILE AT THAT. SO STOP BEING AFRAID... STOP RUNNING AWAY... FACE YOUR OWN FEELINGS, FREE YOURSELF FROM THE PAST, AND LET YOURSELF MOVE FORWARD.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL ACCEPT YOU. AFTER ALL...
THIS COMPANY AND ALL ITS EMPLOYEES ARE LIKE MY CHILDREN...
I'M LIKE A MOTHER TO EVERYONE HERE.
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM NOW, TOO, MISS SERENDINE.

...NOW, WHY DON'T YOU APOLOGIZE TO YOUR FRIENDS FOR BEING IMPOLITE...?

...PRINCESS SERENDINE MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE, TOO.
FOR NOW... WE MUST KEEP AN EYE ON THESE SMALL CHANGES AND MOVE FORWARD...
JUST AS I CHANGED WHEN I HAD MY COUNTRY AND MY FAMILY TAKEN FROM ME...
IF SHE CAN LET GO OF HER PAIN AND HER DARKNESS, SOMEDAY SHE'LL DEFINITELY ...

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ざわ
ざわ
ガシャーン
UH...
HE MUST BE A "BAD CHILD"!!
HUH?! THAT'S NEVER BEEN DONE TO ANYONE BEFORE!!
I HEARD HE WAS PUT IN THE PUNISHMENT ROOM FOR WEEKS.
IS HE THAT STRANGE NEWCOMER?

IS THAT GUY REALLY ONE OF US?
HE NEVER SAYS ANYTHING... AND NEVER RESPONDS TO ANYTHING...
ビク
ビク
フラ〜
ドキ
ドキ
SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE SINBAD BECAME A SLAVE.

BOTH HIS MIND AND HIS BODY WERE WORN DOWN.
HIS PUNISHMENTS BECAME HARSHER AND EVOLVED INTO ACTUAL TORTURE.
MAADER NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED HIM AS HER "CHILD."
DURING THAT TIME, HIS TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT CONTINUED... HOWEVER...
BUT.....
IN ORDER TO LESSEN HIS PUNISHMENTS, HE STROVE TO BECOME SOMETHING THAT MAADER WOULD APPROVE OF.
ALL OF THE PUNISHMENT THAT SINBAD WAS FORCED TO SUFFER THROUGH DROVE HIM TO A CERTAIN MENTAL STATE...
MAADER SAW THROUGH EVERYTHING, AND ALL HIS EFFORTS BACKFIRED.
HIS ATTITUDE ...
HIS WORDS ...

"IMMOBILITY"
だらん…
"I MUST NOT RESPOND TO ANYTHING."
"I MUST NOT THINK."
"I MUST NOT SPEAK."
I MUST TREAT EVERYTHING AS IF IT'S "NOTHING," OR I'LL BE PUNISHED AGAIN...
HE LEARNED TO CLOSE OFF HIS HEART.
THROUGH THE COUNTLESS MOMENTS OF ANGUISH,
IS IT REALLY OKAY? LETTING HIM OUT INTO THE COMMON ROOM WITH EVERYONE ELSE...
IN THE END, HE WAS NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED AS MAADER'S "CHILD."
I THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCE HE'LL HAVE ON THE OTHERS, AND ABOVE ALL..... HE'S UNSTABLE.

SO LET'S KEEP AN EYE ON HIS CONDITION AND MAKE SURE THAT SOMEDAY HE REALLY CAN BECOME ONE OF MY "CHILDREN"...

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KIL... I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.

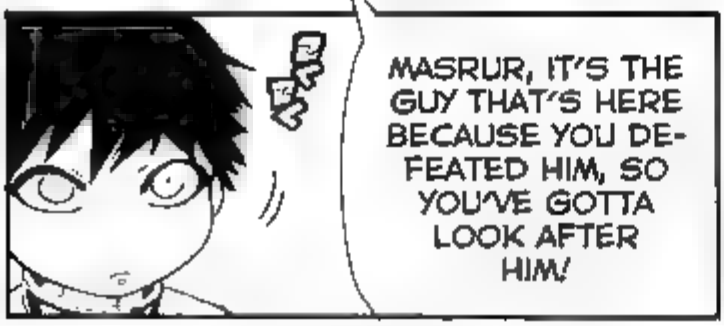
IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF I DON'T ENSURE THAT HE RESPECTS ME FROM THE VERY BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.

BUT IF WE CONTINUE TO PUNISH HIM, HIS HEART WILL DIE.

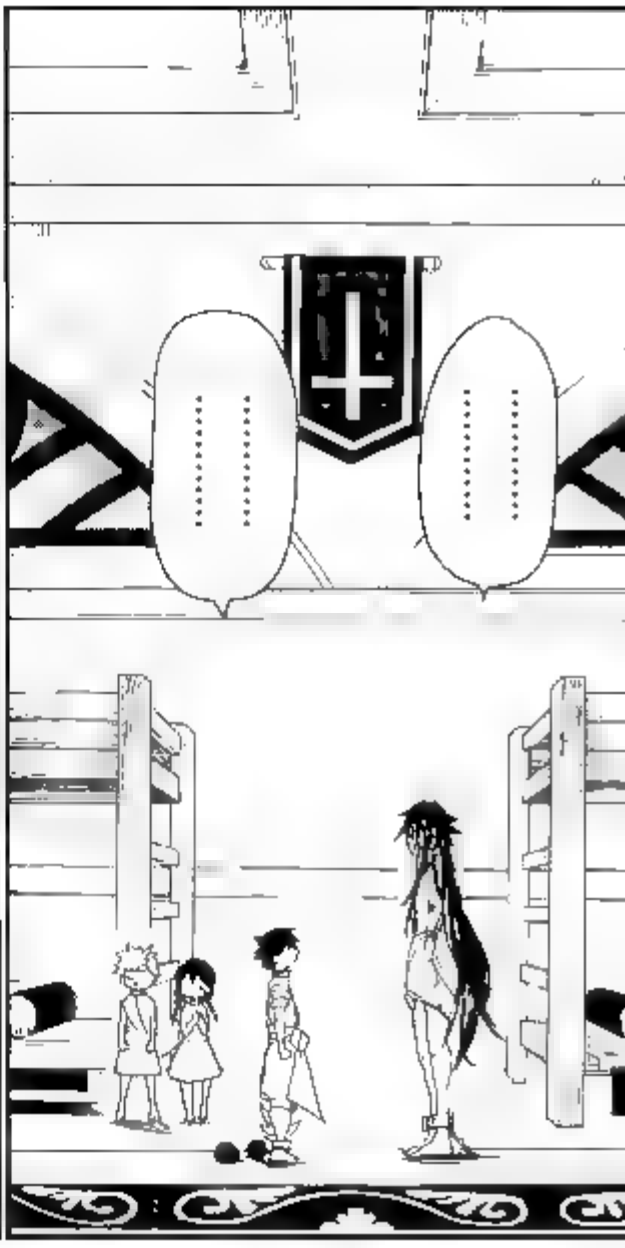
AFTER ALL, I ALREADY ASKED THE CHILDREN IN HIS ROOM TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. IF HE SPENDS TIME WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN, I'M SURE HE'LL COME AROUND.

HE'S A WEIRD GUY, BUT... WE WERE ASKED TO LOOK AFTER HIM BY LADY MAADER, SO WE COULDN'T SAY NO.
HE'S GOING TO BE SHARING OUR ROOM FROM NOW ON.


MASRUR, IT'S THE GUY THAT'S HERE BECAUSE YOU DEFEATED HIM, SO YOU'VE GOTTA LOOK AFTER HIM!

IT'S OKAY! LADY MAADER SAID SO. WE CAN USE OUR STRENGTH TO REFORM HIM!
WAH! I'M SCARED. DON'T ACT UP AND CAUSE US ANY TROUBLE.



THE CHILDREN HERE REALLY LIKE LADY MAADER, HUH.....

I UNDERSTOOD HIM. HE'S NOT JUST A WILD ANIMAL.
HE... HE SAID SOME-THING... HE CAN TALK.

SHE RESCUED ALMOST ALL OF THE CHILDREN THAT ARE HERE.
LADY MAADER IS OUR KIND AND GENEROUS "MOTHER."
THAT'S RIGHT! WE ALL LOVE LADY MAADER!
WHEN I WAS SAD AND LONELY AFTER BEING SOLD OFF BY MY REAL MOTHER AND FATHER...
WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO DIE OF STARVA-TION IN THE SLUMS...

THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO HURRY AND GROW UP SO WE CAN BE USEFUL TO OUR MOTHER. TO HELP THE SAVIOR WE OWE OUR LIVES TO...

SHE'S LIKE A GODDESS TO US...

SHE PICKED US UP AND RAISED US.

...AFTER THAT, MASRUR TOOK SINBAD'S HAND AND LED HIM UNDERGROUND.

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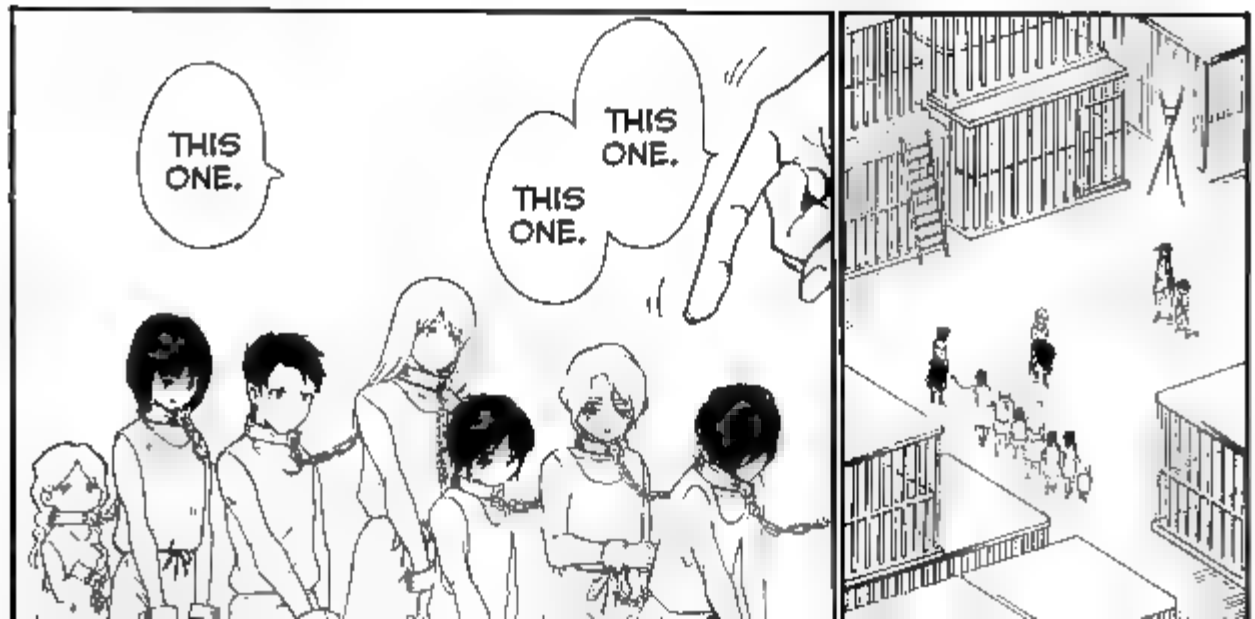
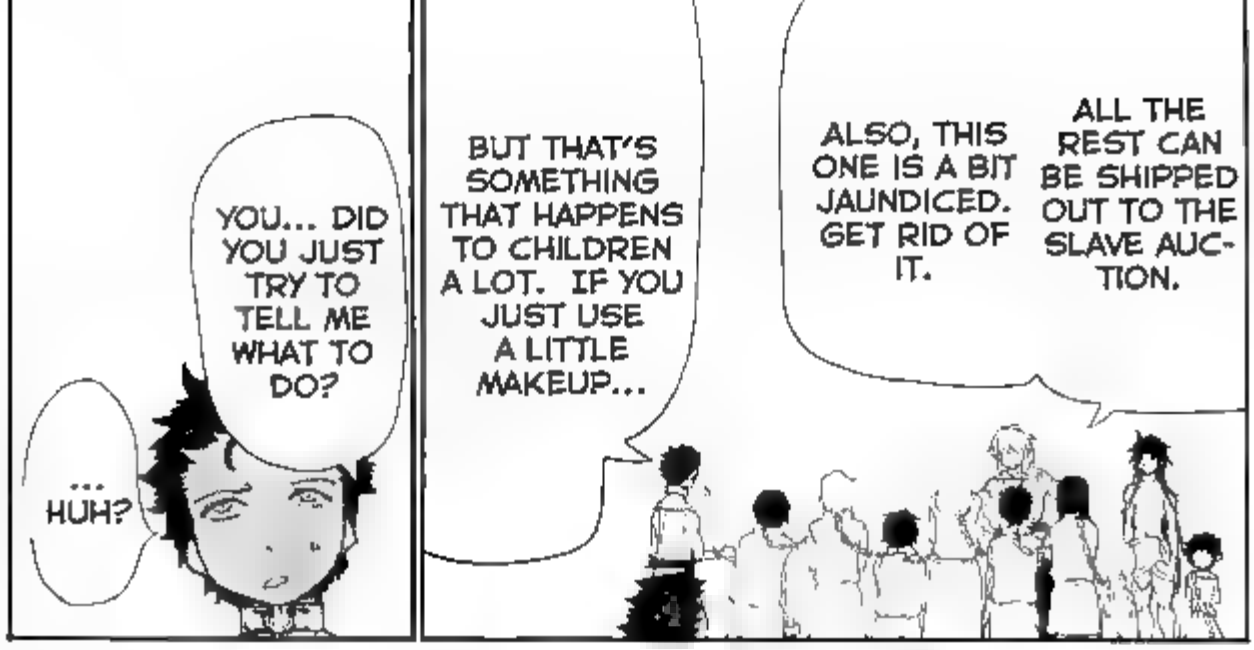
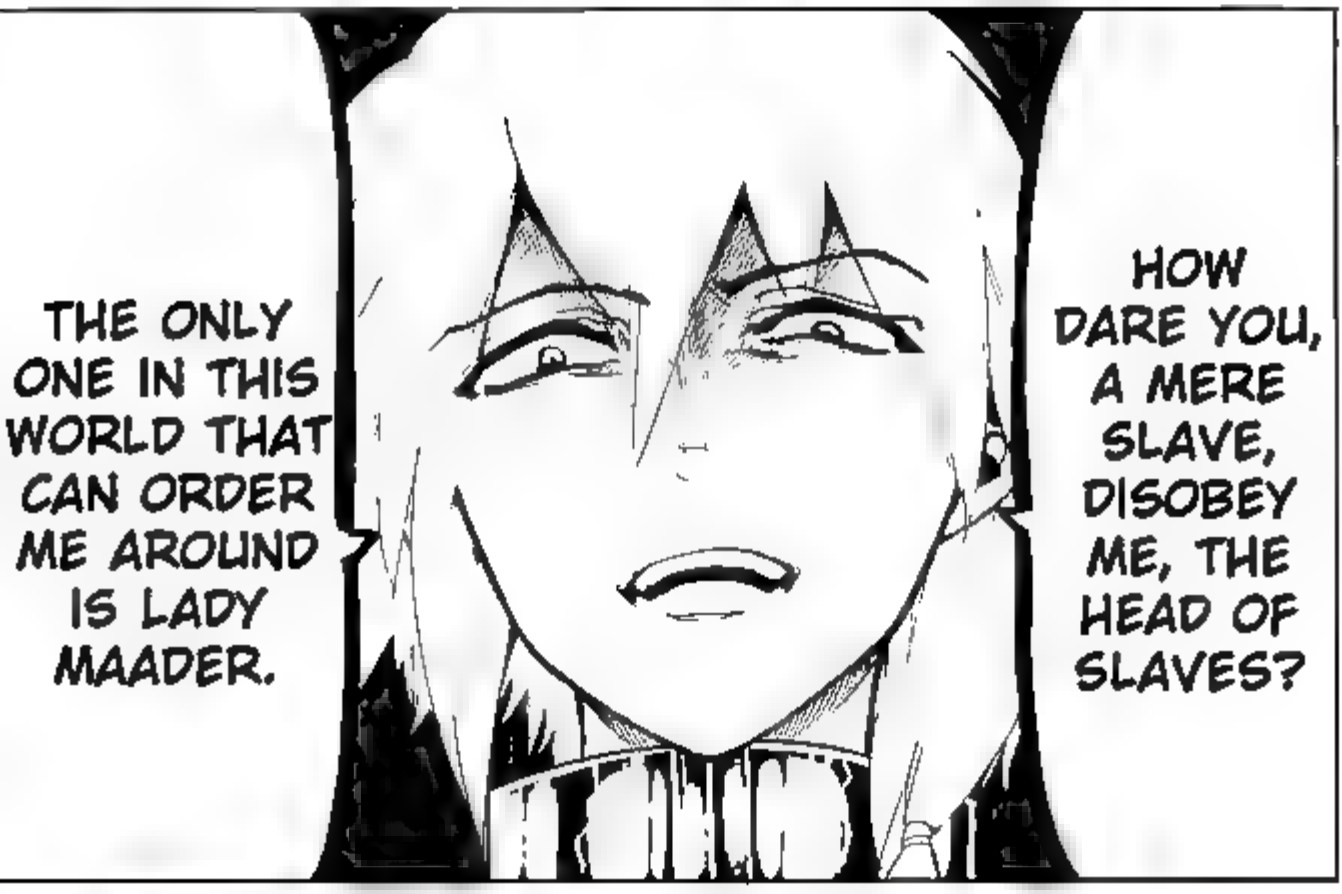
Head slave of
Maader's company
Fatima
YOU SHOULD... INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
SO YOU'RE THE NEW SLAVE. I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM LADY MAADER.
I'M FATIMA, THE HEAD SLAVE HERE.
JUST LOOK AT YOU ...
I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT YOU GOT A LOT OF PUNISH-MENT.
.....

WHY IN THE WORLD IS SHE KEEPING A GUY LIKE YOU AROUND?
YOU DON'T OBEY LADY MAADER.
YOU DON'T RESPECT LADY MAADER.
YOU STILL CAN'T BECOME ONE OF LADY MAADER'S CHILDREN...
MR. FATIMA ...
TAKING A GOOD LOOK AT YOU... WELL, YOU'RE NOT BAD, BUT...

ONE THING RIGHT AFTER ANOTHER... THERE'S JUST NO END.
I'VE BROUGHT YOU THE NEW ONES FOR TODAY. I'LL LEAVE THEM TO YOU.


THIS ONE.
THIS ONE.
THIS ONE.


YOU... DID YOU JUST TRY TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO?
...HUH?
BUT THAT'S SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS TO CHILDREN A LOT. IF YOU JUST USE A LITTLE MAKEUP...
ALSO, THIS ONE IS A BIT JAUNDICED. GET RID OF IT.
ALL THE REST CAN BE SHIPPED OUT TO THE SLAVE AUCTION.


THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD THAT CAN ORDER ME AROUND IS LADY MAADER.
HOW DARE YOU, A MERE SLAVE, DISOBEY ME, THE HEAD OF SLAVES?

...ﾁｯ
SHIP HIM OUT.
YOU'RE NOT NEEDED HERE.

"SLAVE TRADING"

THE MARIADEL COMPANY MANAGES THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT OF RIA VENUS ISLAND. HOWEVER, THAT'S ONLY ONE SIDE OF THEIR BUSINESS. UNDERNEATH, IT HIDES A DARKER SIDE.

THE MARIADEL COMPANY SUPPORTED THE SLAVE MARKET AND BECAME THE WORLD'S MOST PROMINENT COMPANY DEALING IN THE SLAVE TRADE.

THEY WERE ABLE TO GAIN SUCH A POSITION BECAUSE OF THE WAY THE HEAD OF THE COMPANY DIVIDED SLAVES INTO GROUPS... IN OTHER WORDS, SHE WAS ABLE TO DECIDE WHAT QUALIFIED SLAVES AS DIFFERENT "CLASSES."

HOWEVER, IT WAS DIFFERENT FOR SLAVES GIVEN A HIGH CLASS RATING.
SLAVES THAT HAD FEW ABILITIES, OR WERE UNATTRACTIVE, OR HAD LITTLE WORTH WERE GIVEN A LOW CLASS RATING.
THEY WERE KEPT IN LADY MAADER'S HOME TO RECEIVE VARIOUS TRAINING
AND THEY BECAME HIGH CLASS SLAVES WHOSE SERVICES WERE OFFERED ONLY TO THE ELITE.
THOSE SLAVES WERE "SHIPPED OUT" TO THE MARKETPLACE IMMEDIATELY AND PUT UP FOR AUCTION.
THE "CLASS" SELECTION DETERMINED THE COURSE OF A SLAVE'S LIFE, AND THE ONE LADY MAADER PUT IN CHARGE OF MAKING THIS DECISION WAS...
I EARNED LADY MAADER'S COMPLETE TRUST.
HER HEAD SLAVE, FATIMA.
MY CURRENT POSITION AND WAY OF LIFE ARE BOTH THANKS TO LADY MAADER... LADY MAADER MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.
AS PROOF OF THAT, LADY MAADER HAS ALLOWED ME TO ACT AS HER RIGHT HAND, AS HER HEAD SLAVE.

SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE FILLED WITH ADORATION...

BUT DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOMEDAY.

IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT YOU DON'T YET REALIZE HER MAGNIFICENCE...

AHH... LADY MAADER... MY EVERYTHING... OUR GODDESS-LIKE MOTHER.

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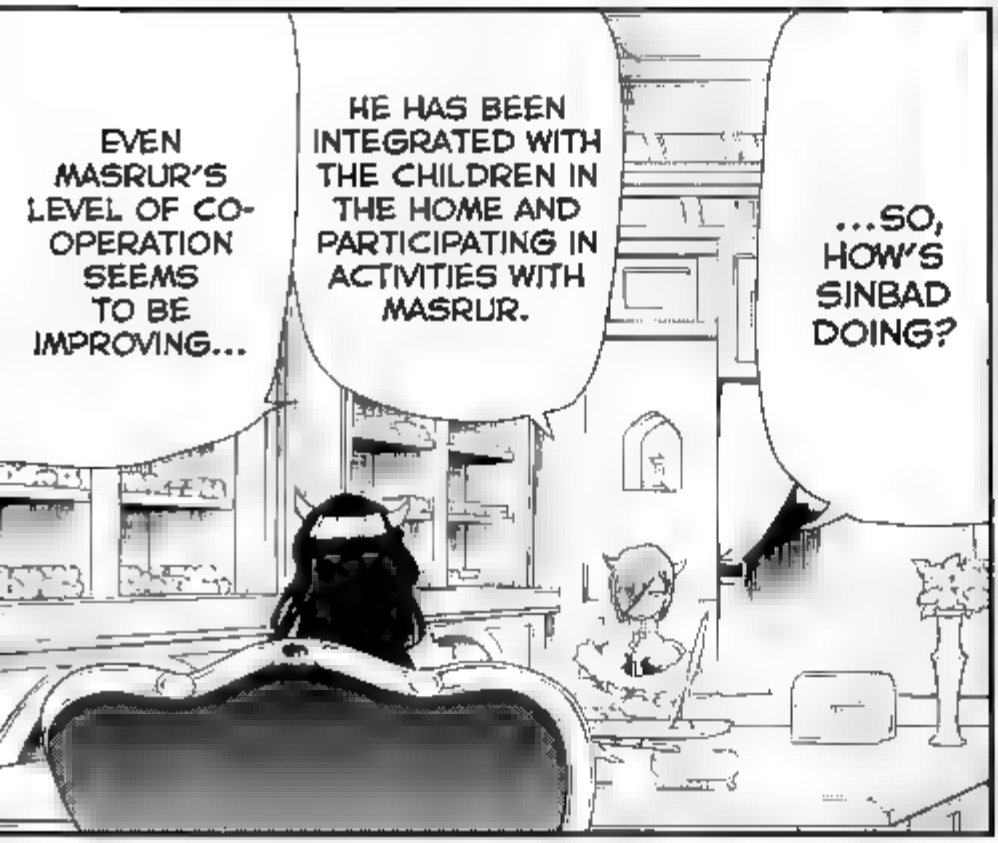
Ria Venus Island
Mariadel Company
Headquarters


EVEN MASRUR'S LEVEL OF CO-OPERATION SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING...
HE HAS BEEN INTEGRATED WITH THE CHILDREN IN THE HOME AND PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES WITH MASRUR.
...SO, HOW'S SINBAD DOING?

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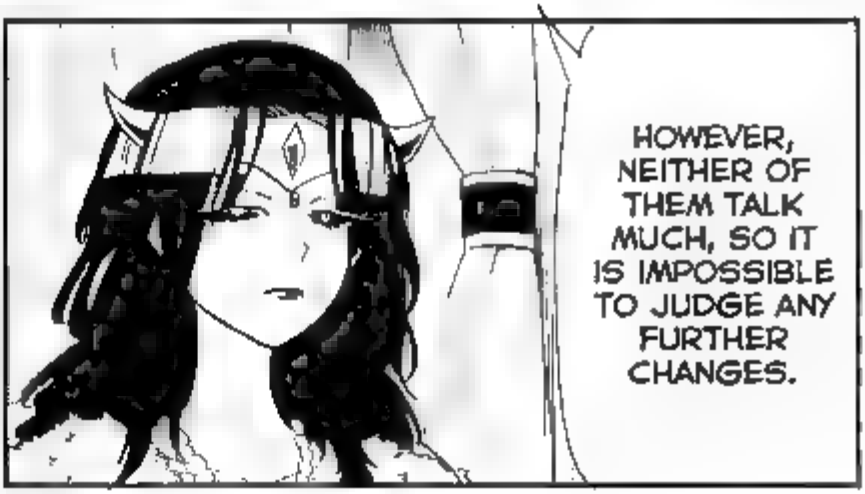
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO GIVE THAT CHILD A PROPER ROLE.
I SEE ...


HOWEVER, NEITHER OF THEM TALK MUCH, SO IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE ANY FURTHER CHANGES.

HERE'S MY REPORT ABOUT OUR PROFIT AT TODAY'S SLAVE AUCTION.
LADY MAADER.
どん
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, FATIMA. YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY.
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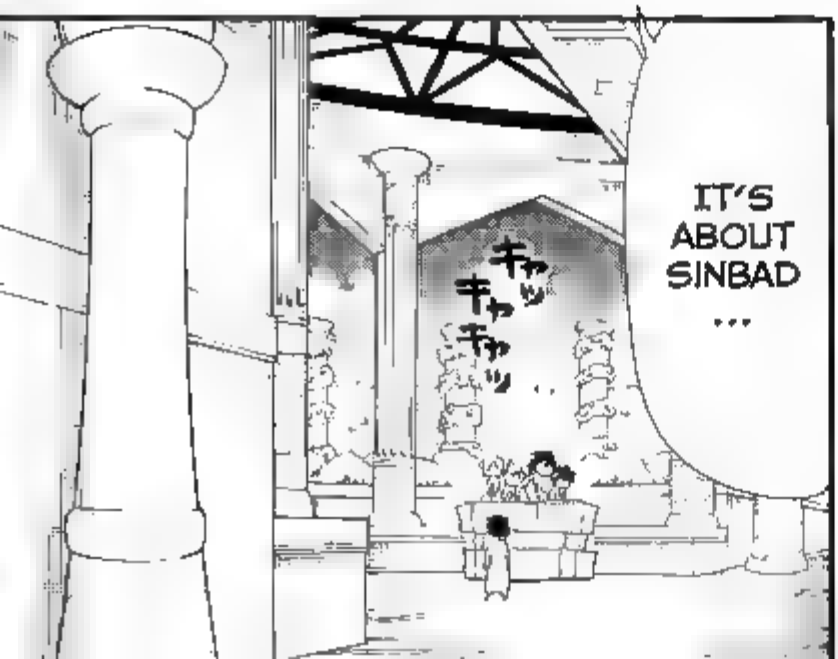
バキバキ
……
YES, LADY MAA-DER!

...YOU'RE NOT USEFUL FOR ANYTHING BUT HANDLING SLAVES... YOU ARE ALL BARK AND NO BITE.
HMPH... YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT GETS TO STAY BY LADY MAADER'S SIDE.

MY, MY... YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT WITH YOUR EMPTY HEAD?
ゴゴゴゴ...
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?!

OF COURSE! WHAT IS IT?
BESIDES, FATIMA... I HAVE A FAVOR I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE MY CUTE LITTLE CHILDREN FIGHTING.
KIL, FATIMA, DON'T ARGUE.


IT'S ABOUT SINBAD ...
キャッ キャッ キャッ

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MASRUR, PICK US UP!

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IS THERE SOME KIND OF SECRET TO THAT RED HAIR? HEY, HEY, MASRUR!

HE CAN FIGHT AGAINST ADULTS AND...

MASRUR IS AMAZING, HUH?! HE CAN LIFT UP THIS BIG HEAVY THING AND...

I'M FROM THE DARK CONTI-NENT ...

WHAT'S THAT? NEVER HEARD OF IT.

コクン

IT'S BECAUSE ...I'M A FANALIS ...

FANA-LIS?

.....

HEY, SINBAD, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A FANALIS?
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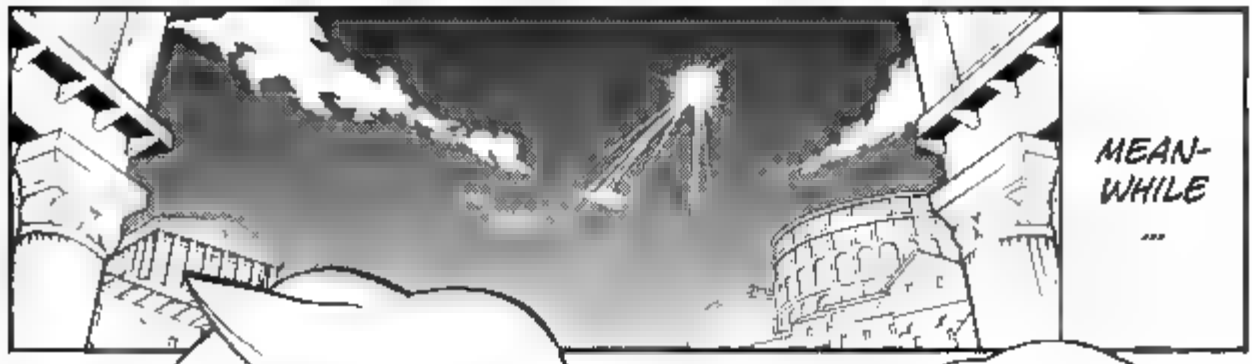
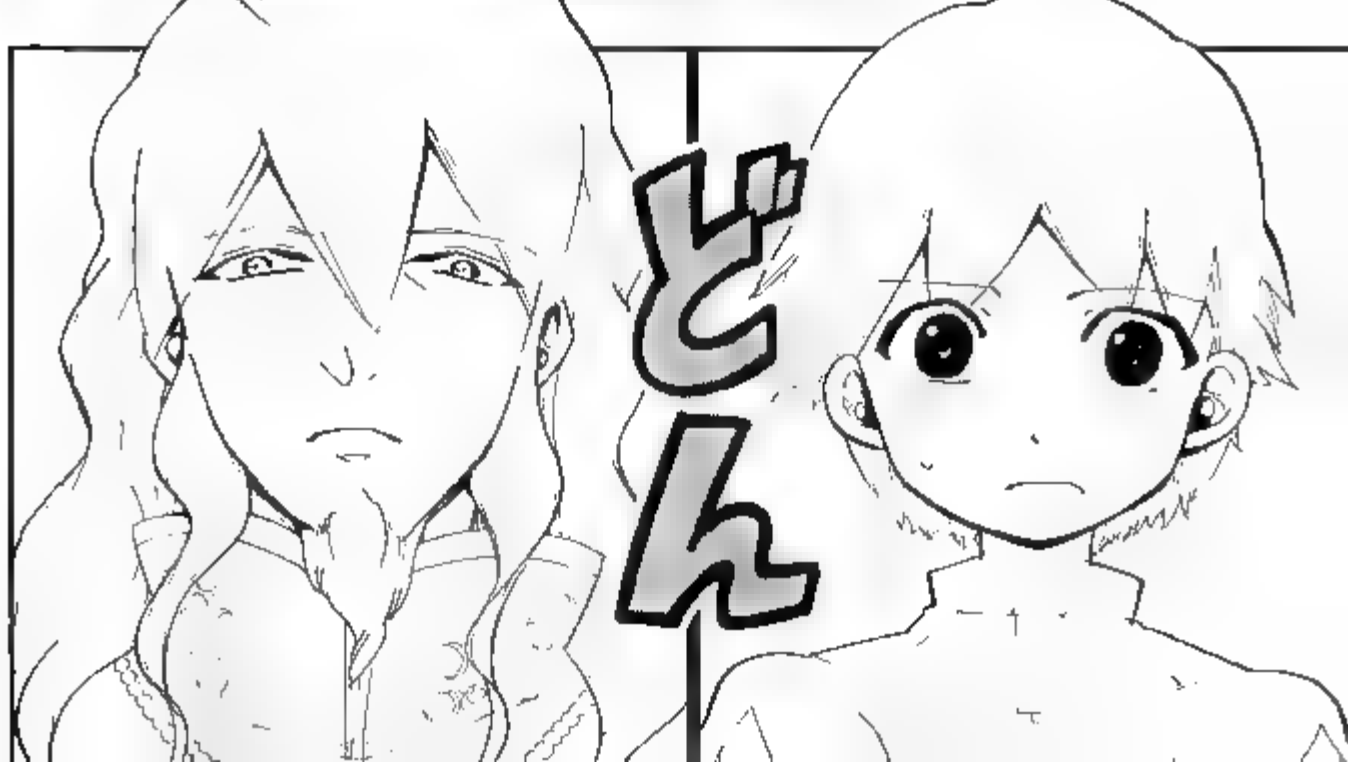
HE'S STILL REALLY WEIRD.
NO GOOD. HE WON'T RESPOND AT ALL.

...COME HERE FOR A MINUTE.


MEAN-WHILE ...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I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. HE RAN OFF AND DID SOMETHING RASH, DIDN'T HE?
AS SLAVE TRADERS, THEY HOLD A LARGE SHARE OF THE WORLD MARKET, AND HERE IN REIM, THEY'RE THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE MARIADEL COMPANY IS A PROMINENT COMPANY EVEN IN REIM.
KING RASH D, ISN'T THERE SOME WAY TO HELP HIM?
I WANT TO GET SIN BACK HOWEVER POSS-IBLE.

WE MUSN'T INTERFERE, KING RASHID...

.....

THE COMPANY HAS FLOURISHED BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT SLAVERY IS AN INSTITUTION IN REIM.

IF THE BALBADD ROYAL FAMILY WAS TO INTERVENE, IT WOULD BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. IT WOULD DAMAGE THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THAT'S BECAUSE REIM IS A COUNTRY THAT HAS PROSPERED THANKS TO THE EXISTENCE OF SLAVES.

WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR HELP ON A NATIONAL LEVEL.

P... PLEASE, SOMEHOW ... !

THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T YOU?

...THAT CAN'T BE...

I CAN'T.

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF ADVICE I GIVE YOU, IF THEY FIND OUT AND TIE IT BACK TO BALBADD, IT WILL STILL BE CONSIDERED INTERNATIONAL INTERFERENCE.

PLEASE... JUST GIVE US YOUR ADVICE AS A MERCHANT!

HOW HAVE I GROWN? HOW AM I A GOOD FOLLOWER? I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, HAVE I?!
HE INTRODUCED ME TO EVERYONE...
HE GAVE ME A PLACE TO BELONG...
HE TAUGHT ME THAT THERE IS LIGHT IN THE WORLD...
I CAN'T EVEN SAVE SOMEONE SO IMPORTANT...!
....NOT SO FAST, BOY.
I DIDN'T SAY I'D GIVEN UP ON ANY-THING.

YOUR MAJESTY?!

!!?

I'M NOT TAKING PART IN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AND OFFICIAL BUSINESS DURING EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY. I HAVE TIME TO WALK AROUND THE CITY OR SIT DOWN AND ENJOY MY MEALS.

HOWEVER, RASHID SALUJA, KING OF BALBADD, IS ONLY VISITING HERE IN REMANO ON HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS.

THAT IS RIGHT. BECAUSE IT WOULD BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.

W-WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE! WE CAN'T INTERFERE ...

JA'FAR ...

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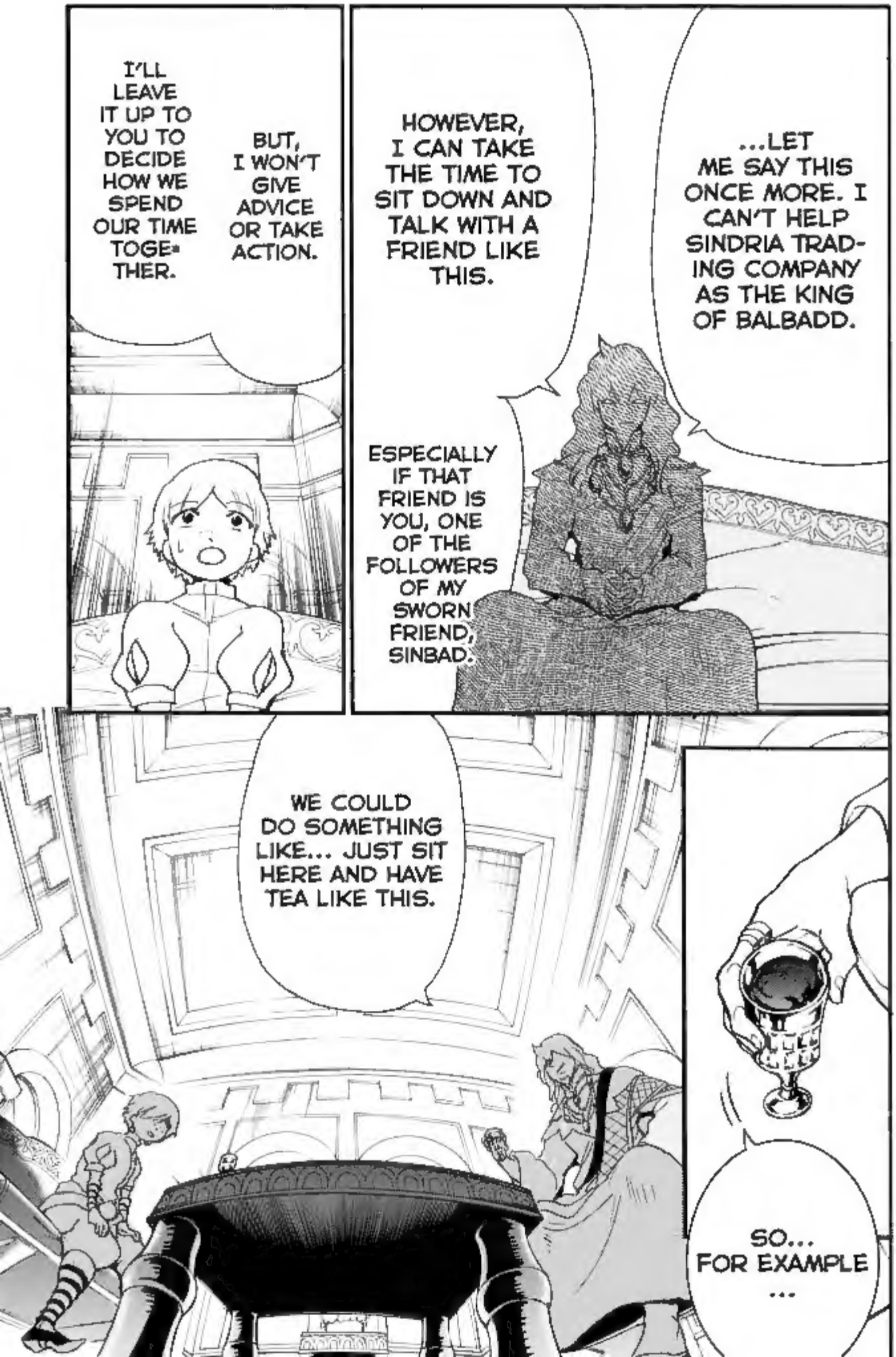
IN OTHER WORDS, I HAVE AT LEAST THAT MUCH FREEDOM.


I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU TO DECIDE HOW WE SPEND OUR TIME TOGE- THER.
BUT, I WON'T GIVE ADVICE OR TAKE ACTION.
HOWEVER, I CAN TAKE THE TIME TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH A FRIEND LIKE THIS.
...LET ME SAY THIS ONCE MORE. I CAN'T HELP SINDRIA TRAD- ING COMPANY AS THE KING OF BALBADD.
ESPECIALLY IF THAT FRIEND IS YOU, ONE OF THE FOLLOWERS OF MY SWORN FRIEND, SINBAD.
WE COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE... JUST SIT HERE AND HAVE TEA LIKE THIS.
SO... FOR EXAMPLE ...

....LET'S HAVE TEA AGAIN.
I'LL LEAVE THE ARRANGE-MENTS UP TO YOU.
KING RASHID ...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HE MEANT, BUT THAT WAS SURELY SOME KIND OF IMPOR-TANT HINT... I MUST TAKE THIS INFORMATION BACK TO THE COMPANY...
YOUR MAJESTY, THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT TO YOUR FUN ...

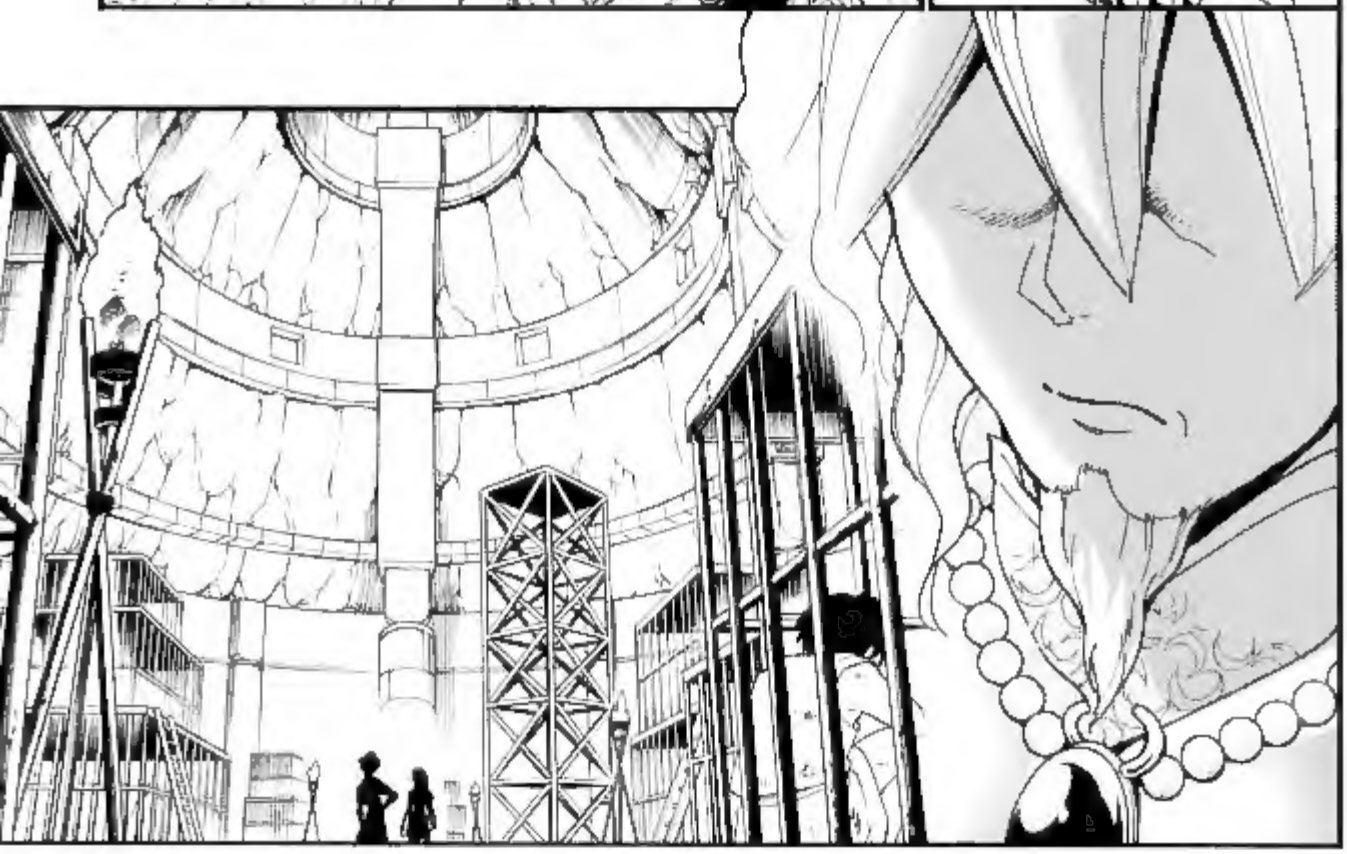
...BY THE WAY, BARKAK ...

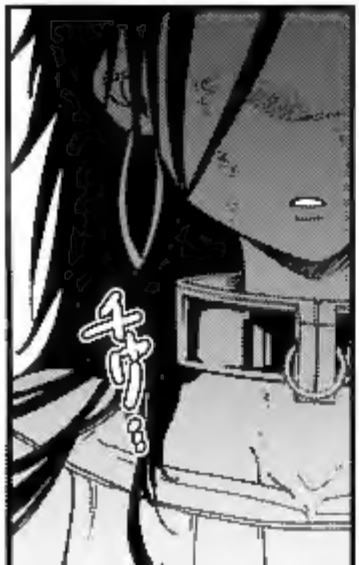
Huh...?
IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID. THIS IS JUST PART OF MY FOREIGN TRAVELS.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING ...

YES! WE'RE STILL SEARCHING.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH THE SEARCH FOR THAT CHILD...? WE WERE JUST SPEAKING WITH A CHILD, SO IT JOGGED MY MEMORY...





HEY! STRAIGHTEN UP A LITTLE. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD, TOO!

.....

YOU'RE NOW THE ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD SLAVE. BE HAPPY! ALSO, THOSE CLOTHES ARE ONLY GIVEN TO SLAVES WITH OFFICIAL POSITIONS. YOU BETTER TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM!

LISTEN UP! STARTING TODAY, YOU'LL BE TRAINED ON HOW TO DO MY JOB!